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HSUS NEWS

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

FALL 1990

VOL. 35 NO. 4



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Saving the Endangered Species Act

On June 22, 1990, the northern spotted owl was the winner in its fight to be listed as a threatened species, although the corollary fight to save its critical habitat, the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest, is still being waged.

The decision to list the owl by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was based on the provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the noblest expression of our reverence for all life yet embodied in federal law.

Under this powerful and important law, any animal or plant that is determined to be endangered—facing extinction—or threatened—likely to become endangered—is entitled to protection.

The eventual amount of acreage protected is still being debated. The Bush administration has voiced concerns about the impact on jobs and has proposed a preliminary plan that falls short of giving full protection to these ancient forests, which were here before our country was founded.

While the administration is making its decision, there are bills in Congress to expand the protection of these ancient forests, which are being logged at a percentage rate faster than the current decimation of the rain forests of the Amazon.

Some federal officials have suggested that the ESA needs to be weakened in the interests of jobs and development projects. However, we cannot allow the ESA to be overridden whenever it is convenient or, inexorably, we will impoverish our biological communities one by one until the ecosystem collapses.

Presently, there are at least 4,000 qualified candidates waiting to be "listed." Given the hostility to the ESA during the tenure of former Secretary of the Interior James Watt, there are those who believe that endangered species are not listed as such because the consequent protection plans would interfere with development projects. If a species scientifically qualifies, it should be listed despite the political consequences. Even with the Act, we have already lost seven listed species. Although some species, such as the American bald eagle and the alligator, have made recoveries, nearly half of the 577 species that are listed lack a recovery plan.

The law's purposes are to preserve species

that are "of aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the nation and its people." Beyond these utilitarian reasons to preserve species, we must educate people to understand that these unique varieties of Creation have a right to exist for their own sake. As I said more than a decade ago, "All life has intrinsic value and is, therefore, deserving of those same considerations we generally reserve for mankind."

Pablo Picasso painted "Guernica" to convey the unforgettable human suffering of the Spanish people during their civil war. I have wondered, where is the Picasso who could paint the "Guernica for the Animals"? As people outraged and angered by animal suffering, we intuitively feel the horror of forcing off the face of the Earth the last animal of a particular kind. It has been observed that the English would not sell the Crown Jewels to provide societal benefits to their people; how much more priceless than the Crown Jewels is the living foundation of life itself! Because extinction deprives animals of the right to reach their coevolutionary destiny, it is cruelty in the first degree. Being an accomplice to extinction is more than irreversible wrongdoing; it is a sin against life itself.

How America deals with the ESA in terms of legislation and enforcement will resonate around the world. Nearly half of the world's species of animals, plants, and microorganisms will be destroyed or severely threatened over the next quarter century. We cannot ask other countries to make economic sacrifices to save species if we do not set an example here in America.

The threat of extinction should be accorded the same priority as a military threat to our national security. In the end, it involves our survival. Human beings are not the center of Creation any more than the Earth is the center of our solar system. We are part of the web, and, it is hoped, intelligent enough to keep the whole intact. In the final analysis, no person can be truly human if he is cut off from his total ecological self, his communion with nature, and his relationship to the world of animals.

You can count on The HSUS to continue to fight to strengthen the ESA and to help formulate an effective national and global strategy for biodiversity. ■



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John A. Hoyt

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HSUS NEWS

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

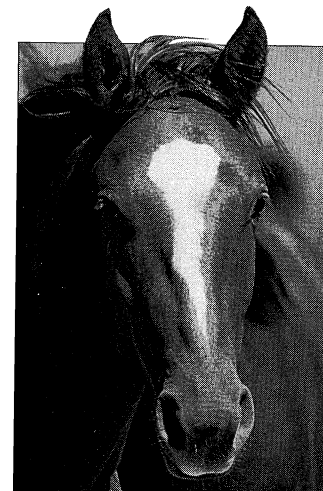
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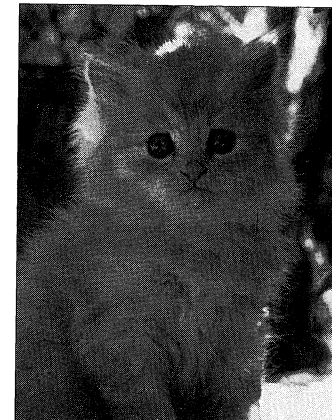
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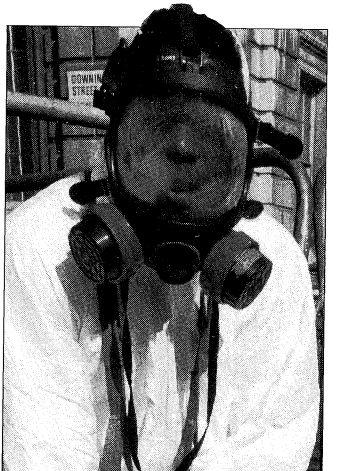
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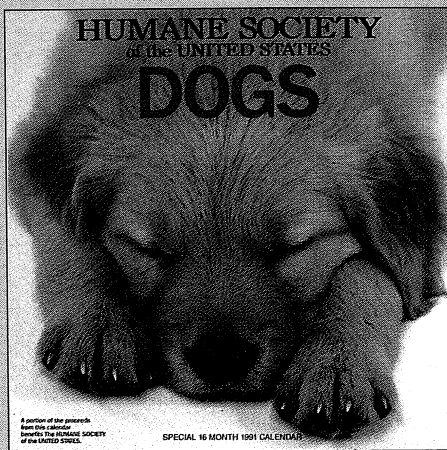
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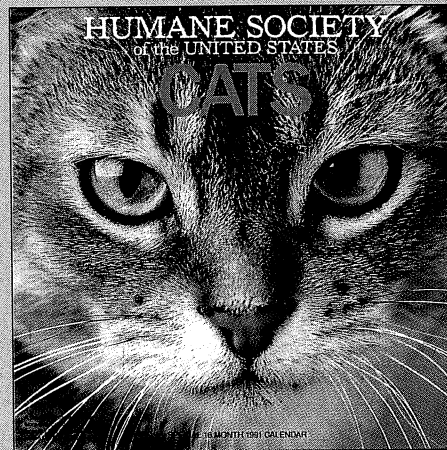


This calendar features dates of special interest, tips on pet care and more!

"No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as a dog does."

Christopher Morley

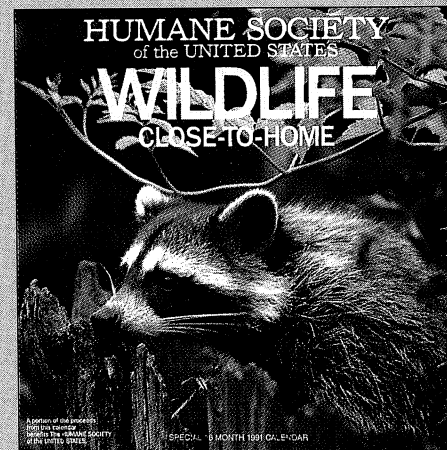
HSUS Member Price: \$9.00



This calendar is full of fun facts and helpful hints for any cat lover!

The United States ranks first among cat-loving nations. It is estimated that Americans own 57.8 million cats.

HSUS Member Price: \$9.00



This calendar contains interesting facts about our country's wildlife.

"We need the tonic of wilderness . . . we can never have enough of nature."

Henry David Thoreau

HSUS Member Price: \$9.00

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

1991 Calendars

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a 10% savings and the HSUS receives
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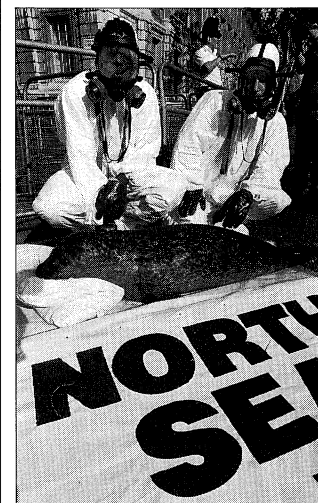
UPS 2nd Day Air Available!

TRACKS

RACE TO SAVE THE PLANET

Race to Save the Planet," a ten-part, prime-time PBS environmental series, examines the greatest planetary crisis ever faced by mankind. More than three years in production, hosted by Meryl Streep, and narrated by Roy Scheider, "Race to Save the Planet" provides an accurate picture of the state of the Earth.

Filmed in thirty countries



"Race to Save the Planet" will air on PBS stations.

and on all seven continents, "Race to Save the Planet" will present a global picture of the state of the world's environment; show the connections among different threats, such as loss of species, population growth, disappearing farmland, and greenhouse warming; and pose realistic new approaches to solving these complex problems.

The HSUS is sponsoring the WETA broadcast of this unique series in the Washington, D.C., area. In conjunction with the North American Conference on Religion and Ecology, we are also providing 5,000 *Facilitator's Resource Guides* and 100,000 *Viewer's Guides* to explore the ethical dimension of this crisis. These guides are being sent to campus ministries and military chaplains across the country. They will be used to promote group discussions and form the basis for continuing group activities.

"Race to Save the Planet" points to scientific avenues and appropriate technologies that can be used in the Earth's regeneration. Beyond these changes, there is a deeper

challenge—to strive to a new ethical responsibility toward the planet and all its creatures.

ENVIRO-MUSIC

Music For A Better World has pledged \$1 of every sale of its newest release, "Pulse of the Planet," (available on compact disc for \$15.98, or cassette for \$9.98) to The HSUS. The recording features well-known performers such as Stevie Wonder, Paul Winter, Suzanne Ciani, and David Lanz, who express their concern through song for endangered plant and animal species of the world. Compact discs and cassettes can be ordered by phone, toll-free, at 1-800-733-5193. Major credit cards are accepted. You may listen to the recording first by calling 1-900-535-9595. This call will cost \$2 per minute.

CARING FOR CREATION

In May The HSUS was a sponsor for the first International Conference on Caring for Creation, held in Washington, D.C., hosted by the North American Conference on Religion and Ecology. K. William Wiseman, chairman of the board of The HSUS, introduced HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who was guest of honor at the conference's banquet on May 18.



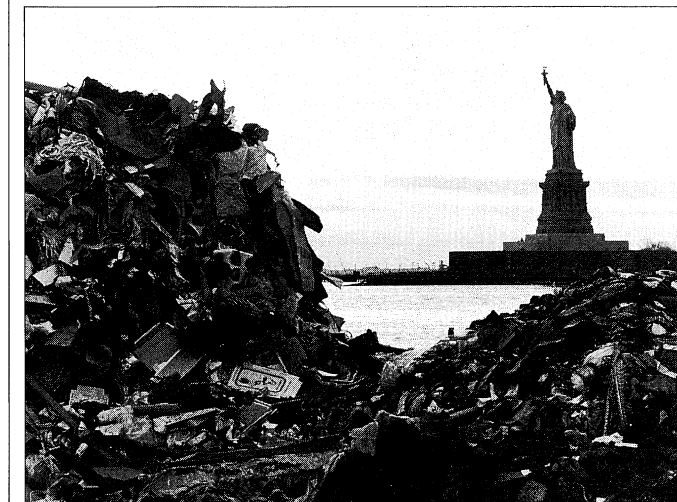
Patty Finch (right) oversees activities of the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education in the HSUS booth at the Caring for Creation conference.

HSUS President John A. Hoyt, Senior Vice President Patricia Forkan, and Vice Presidents Patty Finch, Jan A. Hartke, and Michael Fox were part of the three-day program to sensitize the religious community to environmental concerns.

The conference was held in conjunction with the dedication ceremonies for the National Cathedral on May 19. The HSUS and the Center for the Respect of Life and Environment each set up display booths to serve as information points for the crowd of visitors attending the dedication.

CANNED TUNA NOTICE

On April 12, 1990, StarKist Seafood Company announced that it would only buy and sell tuna that had not been caught via fishing methods that kill dolphins. Chicken of the Sea and Bumble Bee also an-



The new PBS environmental series will explore high-tech and low-tech ways of treating, recycling, and reducing wastes of all kinds.

nounced that same day that they were adopting the same policy (see the Summer 1990 *HSUS News*). Tuna sold under this policy bears a "Dolphin Safe" label.

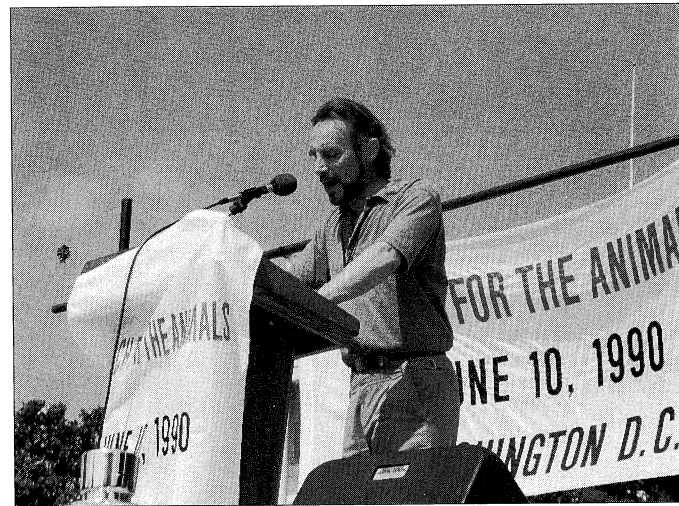
Since then, StarKist and Chicken of the Sea have published their policies in writing and confirmed that their actions were immediate. Although Bumble Bee has also published a policy, it has stated in writing that it will honor its contractual commitments to purchase tuna that may not have been procured through "Dolphin Safe" methods. Such commitments are expected to continue through October of 1990.

As a result of this delay, Bumble Bee tuna will not be "Dolphin Safe" until sometime in the future.

We urge HSUS members to buy only tuna carrying the "Dolphin Safe" label. Until some point after October 1990, this label will appear only on products produced by StarKist and Chicken of the Sea.

MARCHING FOR ANIMALS

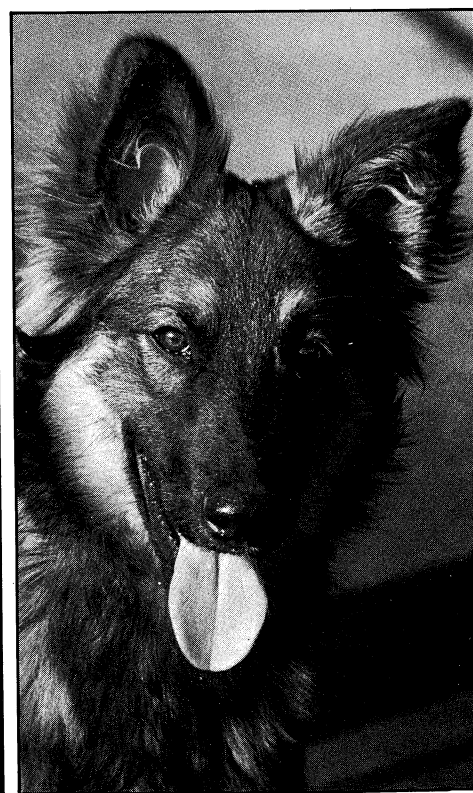
The March for the Animals swept up Constitution Avenue to the Capitol steps on June 10. More than 24,000 people attended, representing all fifty states and carrying state banners provided by the organizers, the National Alliance for Animal Legislation. The HSUS, supporting the event, set up an information booth with other animal-protection organizations at the



Dr. Michael Fox spoke to those assembled for the March for the Animals about the need for reverence for all life forms on Earth.

March's starting point near the White House. The HSUS's Dr. Michael W. Fox spoke to the marchers from the steps of the

Capitol, addressing the need for reverence for all life forms with which we share this planet.



Reflect for a moment... how can I help animals even when I no longer share their world...?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States.

Your will can provide for animals after you're gone.

Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task.

We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material which will assist in planning a will.

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Address _____

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Mail in confidence to: Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/Senior Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR NAMED

NAHEE

The National Humane Education Teacher of the Year Award is a most satisfying endeavor for the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHEE) because it serves as a way to highlight the accomplishments of excellent, committed, compassionate teachers—many of whom NAHEE staff haven't previously known.

The 1990 National Humane Education Teacher Award goes to Karin Lindahl, a dedicated educator whose concern for animals, children, and the environment has expressed itself in numerous ways throughout the twenty years of her teaching career. Ms. Lindahl is a kindergarten teacher at Keysor Elementary School in Kirkwood, Missouri. While working with young children, she has consistently conducted lessons on a wide range of animal topics in a way that exemplifies compassion not only for animals, but also for the sensitive minds of kindergarteners.

Ms. Lindahl's innovative lessons give students a chance to learn about animal protection and to take action. Most recently, her students created a rain forest banner and sent it to the governor of Hawaii to draw attention to continuous destruction of the only rain forest in the United States. They have also raised funds for lowland gorillas and endangered whales, created bulletin boards on pet care for the local humane society, and donated supplies to their local wildlife-rehabilitation center. The death of a blue jay from pesticide poi-



Ms. Lindahl is NAHEE's Teacher of the Year.

CRLE'S EXPANDING WORLD

This last summer was a time of increasing activity and program development for the Center for Respect of Life and Environment. Executive Director Michael W. Fox gave two programs at the Caring for Creation Conference in Washington, D.C., organized by the North American Conference on Religion and Ecology. Dr. Fox has founded the International Livestock Environmental Accountability Project, and he represents CRLE in an advisory capacity to the government of Tanzania, one of many countries where the adoption of humane sustainable agricultural practices is urgently needed.

Associate Director Richard Clugston has presented CRLE's program for transition to a humane sustainable society at major conferences, including

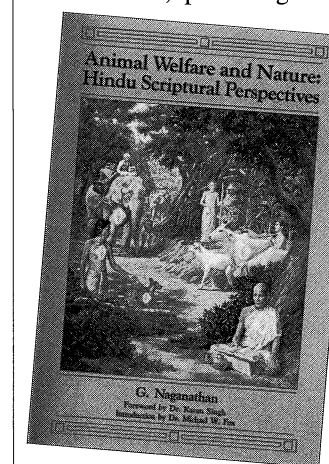
the annual meetings of the American Planning Association and the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society.

CRLE is collaborating with religious, environmental, and animal-protection organizations to develop programs in four priority areas: strengthening ecological spirituality; promoting humane sustainable agriculture, development, and communities; protecting wild

and sacred places; and "greening" academia and the professions. CRLE, in collaboration with the International Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture and The HSUS's farm animals/bioethics division, is involved in a major program to define and promote humane sustainable agriculture in the United States. This work has been made possible in part through the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

CRLE announces the following educational materials are available: *Animal Welfare and Nature: Hindu Scriptural Perspectives*, by G. Naganathan, \$4; "Caring for Creation," an audio cassette by Dr. Michael W. Fox, \$8; and "Steps toward a Humane Sustainable Agriculture," a 1/2-inch VHS video by Dr. Fox, \$20. Prices include postage.

Please make your checks payable to CRLE and mail orders to The Center for Respect of Life and Environment, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.



This new book is now available through CRLE.

HSUS OPENS A EUROPEAN OFFICE

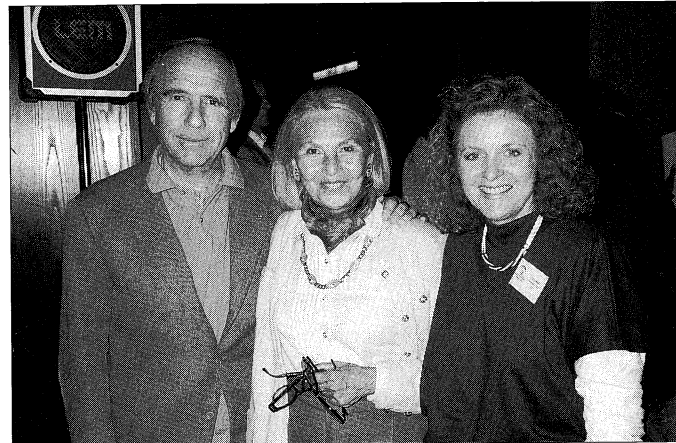
The HSUS has opened a new European office in Bonn, West Germany. Headed by Betsy Dribben, former HSUS director of federal legislative affairs, this office will concentrate on the European Parliament and the European Commission, which oversees legislation for its twelve member European countries. Ms. Dribben will initially concentrate on tuna/dolphin issues, cosmetic testing on animals, and fur issues. The activities of this new office will be reported in a new department in the *HSUS News*, called "European Focus." With environmental and animal-protection issues becoming increasingly more global, this new office and mag-

azine department offer us an opportunity to help shape laws on both sides of the ocean.

PRINCE HONORS DOLPHINS, WHALES

The dolphin could be described as a symbol of our deteriorating relationship with the Earth," explained Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, founder and president of the Bellerive Foundation. The Prince's concern for all cetaceans led him to convene a major international symposium on whales and dolphins in captivity. "We are abusing our ancient friendship with the dolphin," he said.

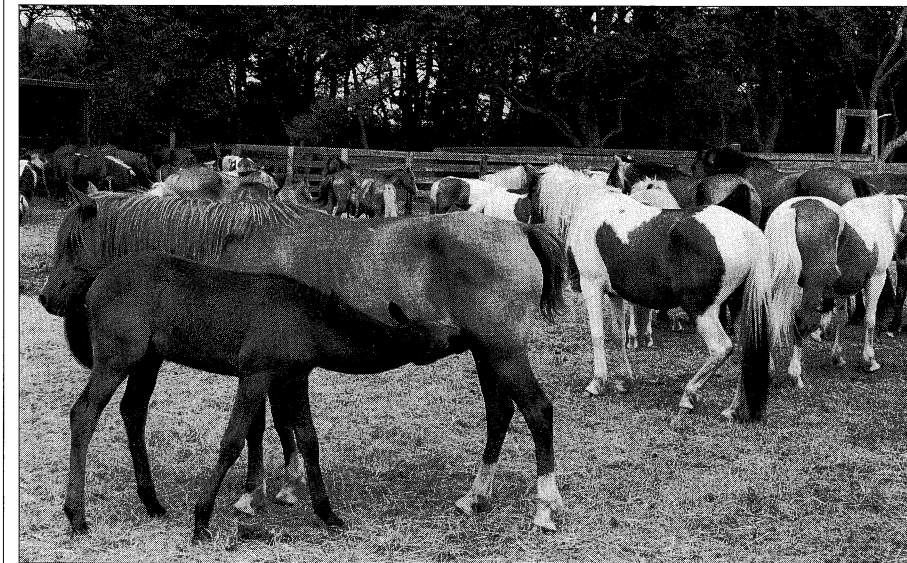
The Bellerive Symposium, held July 9 and 10 in Geneva, Switzerland, drew representatives from more than thirty



Patricia Forkan (right) joins the Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and the Princess Catherine Aga Khan at the Bellerive Symposium on whales and dolphins held in July.

conservation and animal-protection organizations, including The HSUS's Senior Vice President Patricia Forkan. The delegates discussed the detrimental

effects of capture and captivity on cetaceans and, among other things, called for an end to all further captures of all cetacea around the world. ■



A thirsty foal nurses from its dam shortly after Chincoteague mares and foals have been herded into the holding corral prior to the ponies' annual swim.

INVESTIGATIONS

Chincoteague 1990

Improvements made in pony penning

For twenty long years, The HSUS has been monitoring the annual Chincoteague pony penning off the coast of Virginia (see the Fall 1989 *HSUS News*). During the last week in July, wild stallions, mares, and foals that reside on Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge are rounded up, penned inside holding corrals, then forced to swim the channel that separates the refuge from the mainland. Before crowds of cheering spectators, the animals are paraded through town and penned at the fire company's carnival site. The day after the swim, newborn foals are separated from their dams and auctioned to the highest bidders.

The Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company owns the ponies and has a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) permit allowing it to graze its ponies on the refuge. The HSUS has charged that the fire company does not provide the ponies with adequate care year 'round but only exploits

them at auction time. With most foals selling for \$500 and up, the fire company makes a sizable profit.

HSUS investigators have observed a number of abusive practices at pony penning. The auctioning of foals too young to be weaned from their dams, encouragement of impulse buying by spectators who have no understanding of a wild foal's needs, and permitting the riding of wild nursing mares as a carnival attraction are annual problems. In 1988 and 1989, however, several mares died during pony penning. After mares collapsed in 1988 with no veterinarian present, The HSUS was successful in getting a stipulation added to the fire company's grazing permit requiring a veterinarian to be in attendance during future pony penning. Despite that stipulation, when ponies collapsed during the 1989 round up, no veterinarian could be located.

Thanks to hundreds of letters written by HSUS members, this year the USFWS

demanding that the fire company upgrade its care of the herd during pony penning. As a result, The HSUS saw real improvements at the 1990 pony penning.

"For starters, the fire company enlarged the ponies' holding corral—the pen in which the ponies are held for two days before the swim," said investigator Gail Eisnitz. "The ponies aren't crammed inside that corral anymore, and they've got a shaded area where they can escape from the baking sun." The fire company also made water more accessible to the ponies and stationed a horse trailer at the corral site—with a big red cross sign bearing the words "pony ambulance"—in the event an equine emergency arose.

Most importantly, however, the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company finally retained the services of a veterinarian during the entire six-day event. Not only did the veterinarian examine the ponies to determine which newborn foals should not be forced to swim the channel, but he also put an age minimum on foals to be auctioned. (While buyers could purchase foals less than three months old, those animals had to remain on the refuge with their dams until they reached that age.)

"The USFWS has informed us that the veterinarian is keeping an eye on the herd year 'round, even worming the ponies on a regular basis," said Ms. Eisnitz. "This is particularly important because these ponies live in a very harsh environment." Last year the dead mares were found to be suffering from severe infestations of internal parasites; The HSUS and the veterinarian who performed the autopsies demanded that the fire company institute a better worming regimen.

"Of course, improvements at Chincoteague didn't happen because, suddenly, after sixty-four years of pony penning, the fire company realized it needed to be more responsible for the welfare of its herd," said Gail Eisnitz. "They happened because, with pressure from HSUS members, the USFWS threatened to cancel the entire pony-penning event if the fire company didn't begin to clean up its act."

Despite some very positive changes, The HSUS will continue to monitor what remains a highly stressful event for all animals concerned.



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The "Animals...It's Their World Too" reusable shopping bag—This sturdy canvas bag is big enough for groceries, sports a colorful design, and costs only \$16.95 (3 for \$14.95 each). Use it instead of plastic or paper!

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LABORATORY ANIMALS

Building Bridges to Medicine

HSUS, patient-advocacy groups talk

Is peace breaking out on the animal-research front? Judging from recent outreach efforts of the HSUS Laboratory Animals Department, you might think there is a diplomatic solution to the animal-research crisis. In fact, year-long negotiations between HSUS staff and leaders in medicine and patient advocacy are beginning to bear fruit.

In early 1989, as polarization between patient-centered and animal-centered interest groups threatened progress in laboratory-animal protection, Laboratory Animals scientists held out an olive branch. They offered their expertise in nonanimal research methods to professional medical societies and patient-advocacy groups.

"At first they were skeptical of both our concern for human health and our understanding of biomedical research," recalls Dr. Brandon P. Reines, Laboratory Animals associate director, "but once they appreciated our sincerity and depth of knowledge, a few groups started listening."

Such orthodox medical organizations as the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), the Interstitial Cystitis Association (ICA), and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) have "started listening." Getting the ear of such patient-advocacy groups as NAMI and ICA was, nonetheless, no easy task.

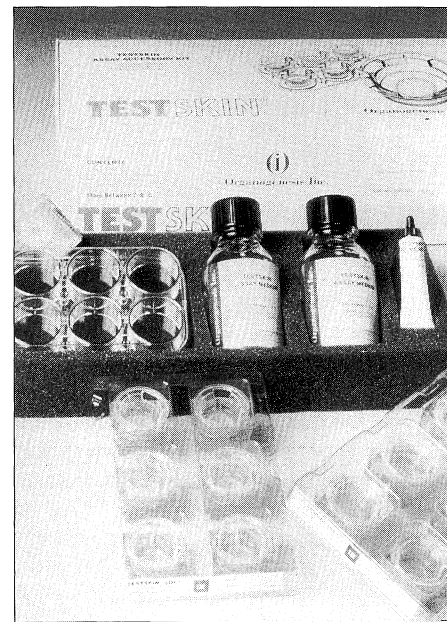
For instance, HSUS staff had attended an ICA meeting in early 1989 to promote alternatives to a particular ICA-funded rabbit experiment on bladder disease. While they were warned that that forum was "not the place" for such discussion, staff members persisted and convinced ICA to fund the project using alternatives to rabbits.

Equally circumspect at the outset of negotiations was the nation's largest advocacy organization for the mentally ill, the Virginia-based NAMI. Although NAMI had invited HSUS scientists to debate ani-

mal research at NAMI's annual convention in Cincinnati in July 1989, the false dichotomy of "mental health vs. animal protection" was implicit in the forum.

Before an audience of 1,200 skeptical NAMI members, we proposed a bold new approach to discovering drugs for mental illness—a technique that does not rely on animals. The technique is based on the fact that most drugs for mental illness were originally marketed for a completely different disease.

For instance, the antidepressant drug known as iproniazid was originally marketed for treating tuberculosis. It had an unanticipated side effect on TB patients. They felt euphoric. An American doctor thereafter predicted it would prove to be an effective antidepressant.



Testskin, a living skin equivalent, reacts to toxic substances much as does normal skin; HSUS describes such animal-test alternatives to patient-centered groups.

Based on the historical record, The HSUS told NAMI members that the prospects for discovering better drugs for mental illness are bright. The key is to inaugurate an alternative method of drug discovery known as "computerized postmarketing surveillance" (CPMS). This method uses computers to process data on the mood-altering side effects of drugs, from antihypertensives to antibiotics, already on the market.

The president of the American Psychiatric Association dismissed the HSUS proposal as animal-protectionist inspired, but NAMI President Thomas Posey indicated in a letter dated December 1, 1989, that "The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill is always interested in anything that might discover another 'tool' in our fight against mental illness and would be interested in further exploring your idea for CPMS."

Interaction between The HSUS and the American College of Sports Medicine has already paid off. The HSUS had originally contacted the ACSM in mid-1989 to criticize a particular sports medical research project on pigs. HSUS analysis of the potential for alternatives to the pig experiment intrigued the president of the ACSM, Dr. Barbara Drinkwater.

Dr. Drinkwater proposed that The HSUS help plan a special forum on alternatives to animal research for the 1991 annual conference of the ACSM in Florida. Laboratory Animals Department staff identified potential speakers who are experts on alternatives to sports medical research on animals, including computer simulation, clinical investigation, biomedical telemetry, biomechanical modeling, and *in vitro* studies; Dr. Reines is scheduled to deliver the introductory address on the historical development of alternatives to animal research.

Says Dr. Drinkwater, "I think it is time for moderates on both sides of the animal-experimentation issue to bypass the extremists and look for areas where scientific and educational goals can be achieved with less reliance on the animal model." The HSUS hopes the event will mark the beginning of a relationship between the animal-protection movement and organized medicine.



HSUS Senior Vice President Patricia Forkan (center) chairs a strategy meeting of nongovernmental observers attending the 1990 IWC meeting.

MARINE MAMMALS

IWC Stands Firm

Another year of the whaling moratorium

The moratorium on commercial whaling is safe for one more year. As the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) annual meeting in the Netherlands drew near in July, there was growing fear that the whalers would find some way to circumvent their "zero" kill allowance. Tremendous support worldwide for whales, however, ensured that the majority of the IWC not only maintained its zero quotas but also blocked all demands by Japan, Norway, and Iceland for changes.

The original decision to allow no commercial whaling established 1990 as the year in which the IWC could begin to consider any modifications. The whalers tried to interpret this to mean the moratorium automatically ended this year and that setting quotas for commercial whaling could begin again. Fortunately, all such wrong-headed interpretations were voted down.

Iceland was particularly aggressive in its attempt to win approval to kill 200 minke

whales. Supported by Japan, Norway, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Soviet Union, it tried—without success—to receive a quota even before any decisions were made about the moratorium itself. Japan also tried unsuccessfully to obtain special, interim quotas for its coastal whalers.

An exposé of Japan's excessive kill of Dall's porpoises and other dolphins off its coast was prepared (with support from The HSUS) by the Environmental Investigation Agency. Months of dangerous undercover work in Japan proved that the massive slaughter was worse than anyone had realized. In the past, there has been no agreement among IWC member nations on the legal right of the commission to take any action on small whales and dolphins. This year the IWC called on Japan to reduce this kill drastically—and quickly.

Norway also tried to circumvent the moratorium. It has conducted "scientific" whaling and plans to do more in the future.

In the meantime, it will continue to ignore resolutions passed yearly by the IWC that say that Norway's "science" will contribute nothing to the comprehensive assessment of whale stocks. ("Scientific" whaling conducted by Japan in the Antarctic was similarly condemned.)

Several important positive actions were taken. A resolution passed calling on the IWC scientific committee to prepare a report on the status of small cetaceans, a positive first step toward bringing the plight of these animals to the world's attention.

Another adopted resolution called on nations to use nonlethal means to conduct research programs. This was another condemnation of "scientific" whaling, which kills whales in order to study them. The HSUS is particularly concerned about finding humane alternatives to the totally unacceptable explosive harpoon. There is no real way to kill whales humanely, a major reason why The HSUS objects to whaling.

One of the gratifying aspects of the 1990 IWC meeting was evidence of worldwide support to continue the moratorium. In the United States, Congress unanimously passed a resolution calling for zero catch limits to continue "for at least another decade, that is, to the year 2000 or beyond." The European Parliament added its voice to the growing international chorus condemning whaling by adopting a resolution supporting the moratorium and criticizing any efforts to overturn it.

The formation of the Global Cetacean Coalition last December, at a meeting hosted by The HSUS, certainly contributed to this outpouring of support. Coalition member groups in more than twenty countries are working for the moratorium.

We must now begin to lay the ground work for the next year's meeting, to be held in Iceland. The Icelandic government, by offering to act as IWC's host, could be hoping for a diplomatic climate more favorable to its views. The world's citizens must insist that their governments stand firm for whales regardless of where the IWC meets.

U.S. citizens must continue to make their wishes known to President George Bush, who can use trade sanctions to keep the whalers from resuming their bloody activities. We all must be ready for an even tougher attack on the moratorium next year. ■

HORSE WRANGLING



HSUS/DANTZLER

Animal-Protection Groups and the BLM Continue Twenty Years of Disagreement on Management of Wild Horses

By Paula Jewell and Dr. John W. Grandy

Although they evolved in America, horses are not considered a native species. They disappeared mysteriously just after humans appeared in this hemisphere, about 10,000 years ago. It wasn't until Spanish conquistadors brought horses with them to America in the sixteenth century that they returned. This evolutionary interruption caused wild horses to be classified as a feral species, not indigenous to the United States and, therefore, not protected by laws designed to protect "native" wildlife. Lacking protection, wild horses almost disappeared. In the mid-nineteenth century, millions of wild horses roamed the plains; by 1967, only 9,500 remained. Wild horses were thought to compete with livestock for forage on public lands and were blamed for rampant destruction of the range. Ranchers began to encourage the capture and slaughter of wild horses. Passage of the Wild, Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act in 1971 was expected to stop these abuses.

Administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Act prohibited:

- removal of wild horses or burros from public land without authority;
- acquisition of wild horses or burros by private individuals without government permission;
- malicious death or harassment of wild horses or burros;
- processing or permitting the processing of an animal or its remains into commercial products;
- sale of an animal or its remains; and,
- violation of regulations issued to carry out the Act.

The Act stated that horses deemed "excess" would be rounded up and either relocated to another wild horse area, destroyed humanely, or placed in private custody. But, "excess" was not defined—a critical omission that continues to haunt wild horses today, as the courts have generally given the BLM discretion in management decisions involving wild horses and burros. The BLM considers "excess" those horses that, according to its calculations, exceed the resources of the land on which they live. The HSUS and other wild-horse-protection groups have traditionally questioned determinations of "excess" because the BLM has never provided concrete data to uphold these determinations. Wild-horse lands historically have been mismanaged and their resources abused. Therefore, wild-horse-protection groups reject the BLM's determination of "excess" and continue to believe that these animals deserve to live on their traditional lands.

Unfortunately, early on, the BLM showed itself a poor guardian for the wild horses. In 1973, with BLM approval, Idaho ranchers rounded up twenty horses with snowmobiles and aircraft: about half of the horses were run over cliffs to their deaths, according to HSUS North Central Regional Director Frantz Dantzler's eyewitness account. This event prompted lawsuits against the U. S. Department of Interior regarding illegal roundups. An injunction against roundups in Challis,

Wild horses are victims of BLM decision-making and attitudes. Inset: One of almost 100 wild horses in North Dakota that died in 1988 following their adoption.

JIM HANSEN

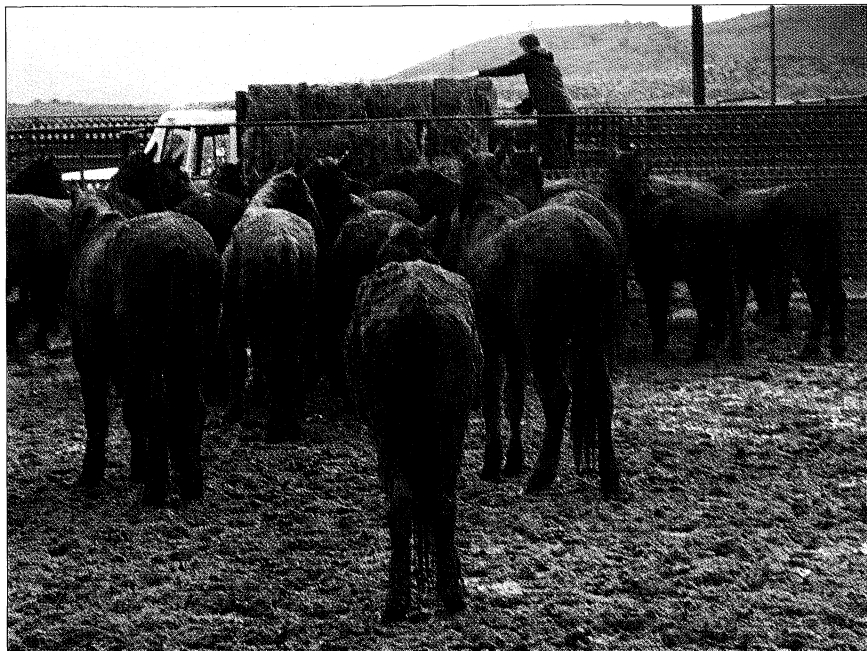
Idaho, was the eventual result.

In 1972, a wild-horse group, Wild Horse Organized Assistance, was given permission by the BLM to place starving wild foals in carefully selected foster homes. Thus began a loosely organized Adopt-a-Horse program, which was taken over by the BLM in 1975. Potential adopters paid about \$200 for wild horses, \$75 for burros. The animals remained the property of the government for one year of demonstrated humane care, then title was transferred to the adopter. Although Adopt-a-Horse sprang from a noble purpose, the BLM began to use this program as the primary means of removing "excess" horses. The program grew throughout the 1980s. The BLM again proved itself a deficient steward, as the Adopt-a-Horse program spawned abuses. Horses often languished for months in holding corrals while awaiting adoption. By the end of fiscal year 1986, there were approximately 12,500 wild horses in holding corrals. The BLM proposed euthanizing these horses. When wild-horse groups asked if the BLM would concurrently halt roundups, the answer was "no." The loud protests of The HSUS and other groups won the cancellation of this proposal. Even worse, through the BLM's "fee-waiver" adoption program, thousands of horses were adopted free of charge by supposedly well-meaning, well-screened individuals. (In 1987 alone, nearly 13,000 wild horses were adopted through the fee-waiver system.) Many of these horses mysteriously ended up in slaughterhouses or disappeared. Other horses were adopted by well-meaning, but inexperienced, people and became victims of neglect and abuse, due to the BLM's inadequate screening and post-adoption inspection.

But the real problem faced by wild horses, then and now, has been the BLM's decision-making on overall range-management policy and its attitude toward the wild horses on the range. Grazing policy on the public lands administered by the BLM is almost exclusively livestock oriented, with the needs of other species subordinate to the objective of maximizing livestock production. The BLM calls its planning-process objec-

tives resource protection and multiple-use management. The BLM points to deteriorating rangeland conditions and their improvement as its rationalization for removing wild horses and burros.

The HSUS agrees that rangelands are in poor condition and applauds public-policy programs designed to improve those lands. However, blaming America's few remaining wild horses and burros is absurd. Between 1981 and 1988, an average of more than 4.3 million domestic livestock grazed on the public lands per year in the ten western states where wild horses and burros reside. These animals consumed an an-



Wild horses in a holding corral are fed hay as they await final disposition by the BLM. The HSUS and wild-horse-protection groups believe the BLM favors livestock interests over horses in its range-management policies.

nual average of 10.7 million Animal Unit Months (AUM)* of forage. In 1984, there were 60,000 wild horses and burros, which consumed only 656,000 AUMs, on public lands. Consumption by wild horses represents only 4 percent of the total forage consumption by livestock, wildlife, and wild horses and burros. Wild horses and burros cannot be held responsible for poor range conditions: the blame lies with the years of overgrazing and abuse of the public lands by domestic livestock. The BLM's land-management policy has traditionally catered to a dominant, nearly exclusive, use by domestic cattle and sheep.**

The BLM's alleged attempts to right range-management wrongs have really been nothing more than red herrings. Rather than formulate land-management policies consistent with the Wild, Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 and any logical definition of multiple-use (which leaves wild horses

and burros on their traditional range habitat), the BLM continues to concentrate on programs to deal with "excess" horses it rounds up. Each year the BLM offers humane destruction as the first option for these animals. Although The HSUS and other groups manage to block the euthanasia proposal each year, its perennial appearance illustrates the BLM's exploitative attitude toward wild horses.

In 1986 the BLM launched the pilot prison program, in which select prison inmates train young wild horses slotted for the Adopt-a-Horse program. These programs serve two basic functions: halter-breaking and acclimating wild horses three to seven years old to human handling to create more adoptable horses, and rehabilitation of prison inmates. There are currently four prison training programs in the United States, in California, New Mexico, and Colorado. These programs certainly do benefit the inmates, according to spokespeople at the Colorado Department of Corrections. However, The HSUS has several serious concerns regarding the well-being of the horses and the intent of the BLM.

Prison programs are especially worrisome because the BLM is bound by contract with

the prisons to provide horses for the programs. It now appears that the BLM may have backed itself into a corner and is rounding up horses, not because it is necessary, but because the prison programs need horses. Since the wild-horse-protection community has no consistent data demonstrating that wild horses damage rangelands, we suspect an ulterior motive in all of the BLM's wild-horse-disposition programs.

In May, one of the authors, Paula Jewell, visited the Canon City prison program and was astonished to find more than 250 horses, half under one year of age, being held at the prison facility. These animals were obviously not appropriate for the prison training pro-

* An AUM is a standardized unit of forage consumption equal to the amount eaten by one adult cow in one month.

** Ranchers pay a paltry \$1.81/AUM to graze on public range lands; privately leased lands command an average of about \$7.00/AUM.

gram. When she asked why these horses were there, she was told that they were on their way to an adoption site. Apparently, the BLM uses this as a holding facility for rounded up animals. Such a misuse of the prison-program budget is unacceptable, and we have registered our opposition. The BLM is once again hiding behind a supposedly beneficial program.

Another glossy BLM "solution" is the "wild horse sanctuary" program, which has received wide press coverage. The BLM has entered into two contracts in which the landholder provides land and facilities to accommodate wild horses, and the BLM pays the landholder for this service. The first contract is with the Institute for Range and the American Mustang in South Dakota; the second is with the Tadpole Cattle Company in Bartlesville, Oklahoma; 2,000 horses are to be maintained at each site. The agreements require that horses seven years old or older or horses otherwise "unadoptable" be placed on the sanctuaries. The BLM has provided sanctuary managers with financial assistance for three years, after which they are required to become self-sufficient.

Though the sanctuary program may appear to the casual observer to be a solution to the wild-horse situation, The HSUS and other groups have many serious reservations about it. We fear establishing sanctuaries may be another way of shifting responsibility and attention for the wild horses from the BLM to the private sector. The BLM, not private landholders, is the assigned steward for these animals and cannot ask private citizens to accept its burden.

The government, and ultimately the taxpayer, is funding wild-horse sanctuaries, at an average cost of \$1.25 per horse a day. To date, neither sanctuary has provided workable financial plans to carry on beyond the three years of federal financial aid. When asked how these facilities will become self-sufficient, the directors vaguely mention tourism. The absence of financial plans is a direct violation of the sanctuary-program agreements. The HSUS has also learned that approximately 800 of the horses on one sanctuary are under the age allowed by the agreement. The BLM does not seem to know how those "youngsters" ended up on the sanctuary. Such ignorance concerns The HSUS and other wild-horse groups. It brings to mind the many horses that ended up in the slaughterhouse via the fee-waiver program.

Many questions regarding sanctuaries remain unanswered, including how they benefit long-term wild-horse protection. *Sanctuaries must be seen as temporary solutions only.* No more horses should be delivered to sanctuaries, and horses should never be removed from the range simply to supply sanctuaries.

Wild-horse protectionists have managed to force the BLM to improve certain aspects of wild-horse management. In September 1988, after heavy pressure by The HSUS, the Animal Protection Institute, the American Horse Protection Association, and many others, the BLM terminated the fee-waiver program. Through the Interior Bureau of Land Appeals and the public comment process, we have successfully appealed certain BLM roundup plans and registered our objections to inhumane treatment during roundups and to faulty management plans. We are coordinating efforts to implement the latest technology in contraception in wild-horse herds and attempting to establish cooperative wild-horse-contraception programs with the BLM.

The HSUS, the American Horse Protection Association, and other groups have traditionally appealed to the BLM to balance use of public lands between wild horses and livestock by raising the livestock-grazing fee on public lands and improving range conditions. We continue to call for a careful analysis of the wild-horse population and distribution on the public lands designated for them, with a concurrent halt to all roundup activities until an accurate study can be made. Roundups must never be used as less than an emergency action taken as a last resort. The BLM needs to improve its Adopt-a-Horse program and research

fertility-control methods to manage and stabilize the population of horses, when this is shown to be necessary.

The HSUS believes that BLM management programs such as prison training programs and sanctuaries do not offer a *real* solution to the problems of wild horses in the western United States. We continue to pursue a long-term program that will ensure equitable land use for wild horses, wildlife, and livestock. We feel that this approach is the *only* way to ensure the continued well-being of America's wild horses and burros.

Under the Wild, Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, Congress assigned the BLM the role of steward for wild horses and charged it with the responsibility of developing the public lands into thriving, natural, and ecologically balanced lands. The HSUS believes that the best method to achieve such a balance is to provide equitable land use, based on populations and grazing habits, for all indigenous wildlife, wild horses, and livestock. The HSUS feels the horses should remain on these lands set aside for them by Congress, free from unnecessary and destructive human intervention and in balance with their natural ecosystem. ■

Paula Jewell is HSUS project coordinator for wild-horse issues; Dr. John W. Grandy is HSUS vice president for wildlife and habitat protection.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

In August 1990, the General Accounting Office (GAO) released *Rangeland Management: Improvements Needed in Federal Wild Horse Program*, an independent report to the Secretary of the Interior. The HSUS was pleased with the report's conclusions that the BLM's handling of wild horses has been far from exemplary. The report clearly outlines the mismanagement of the public lands by the BLM—a problem The HSUS has been publicizing for years. We urge concerned citizens to get the report (from the GAO, PO Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20877), read it, and use it when writing to the BLM about wild-horse issues.

It was only through massive public pressure that the wild-horse act was passed. It will only be through massive public pressure that we can force an overhaul of the BLM's wild-horse program.

To help keep the wild horses on the range, write to your representatives and senators and the BLM. You may also want to involve local horse groups. Outline your objections to continued

roundups and to the abuses present in BLM programs such as prison training and Adopt-a-Horse. We suggest using the statistics available in the GAO report. Request officials to implement equitable solutions to range-management situations, such as rangeland improvements, increased grazing fees, and decreases in livestock grazing. Urge a retreat from domination by livestock interests—demand that the recommendations in the report be adopted and implemented. Remind all parties that the BLM has been assigned by Congress to care for wild horses and that the only humane solution is to work to keep the horses in their natural state.

To write to Congress: The Honorable _____, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515. The Honorable _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

To write or call the Director of the BLM: Mr. Delos (Cy) Jamison, Director, The BLM, U.S. Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets, NW, Room #5600, Washington, DC 20240; (202) 343-3801.

THE NOBLE MISSION

Saving the Diversity of Life on Earth

Today, amidst the bustle and noise of everyday life, we are quietly losing our most precious heritage, the diversity of species that inhabit the Earth. Between one-fifth and one-half of all species on the planet are threatened with extinction in the course of one generation. We have not seen such a funeral march for the animals in sixty-five million years, when the dinosaurs died out. Yet this time the animals are not dying because of an act of nature. This time it is humans who are driving massive numbers of species off the face of the Earth.

By early in the next century, we may have lost a million or more species. This extinction crisis is a threat to civilization second only to the threat of thermonuclear war. If living strand after living strand of the web of life is cut, at some point, the whole web will suddenly collapse. We continue to cut, even though we do not know what that point may be. We are playing Russian roulette with the survival of our own species.

Once a species is lost, it is lost forever. The unique nature and potential of each lost species will be lost for all the ages to come. Its evolutionary secrets will never be known. Its kind will never give birth again. This horror beyond description must be stopped.

It is time to set forth on a new mission, as noble as has ever been undertaken since the dawn of civilization: to save the stuff of life itself. Profound issues are at stake. The loss of species is irreversible, alarmingly high, and rapidly accelerating. The issue is hotly debated in the United States, but its impact is global. The scientific, educational, governmental, corporate, and spiritual com-

munities have a stake in stopping this rush toward the awesome finality of species extinction.

It cannot be clearer: to save species, people must save the environment. When the Earth is stripped, degraded, poisoned, and destroyed, the animals perish. The question is not whether society will respond, but whether it will respond in time. For the animals, the hour is already late. Urgency is the order of the day. This is the decade of decision. This is the time to act.

Recently, Earth Day 1990 saw hundreds of millions of people from around the world proclaim their love for the Earth. They hoped that their tidal wave of human concern for the Earth and its creatures would transform the old order and begin the transition to a sustainable and humane society. They have wondered, as I have wondered, what it will take to inject a sense of urgency into the leadership of this nation and the world.

Must the last mountain gorillas, which Dian Fossey gave her life to save, become extinct?

Must the wild chimpanzees, which Jane Goodall is devoting her life to save, disappear forever from the trees?

Must the great whales be hunted down one by one until they no longer swim the seas?

Must the grizzly bears vanish from the mountains?

Must the great herds of elephants be machine-gunned and killed with absolute ruthlessness until they exist no more?



Right: Coral reefs contain a vast diversity of life. **Above:** Coral displayed for sale has been taken from a vulnerable ecosystem.



When will we have had enough? What will it take to awaken the leadership of our nation in order that these animals will be given the consideration and resources they need to survive?

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

Some 67 percent of all endangered, vulnerable, and rare species of vertebrates (including fish) are threatened by habitat degradation or loss. These factors pose the greatest threat to invertebrates and plants, as well.

However, the loss of habitat is not just a function of the numbers of acres destroyed. The fragmentation of wild lands also takes a heavy toll. When it decided to protect the spotted owl, for example, the U.S. Forest Service had to upwardly revise what con-

stituted a minimum viable population because the owl's habitat was so fragmented that inbreeding and the lack of genetic variation threatened its survival. In the United States, we are discovering that setting aside certain lands may create land areas isolating individuals from the larger pool of their own kind. Animals that live on islands have been particularly hard hit by extinction. That is why wildlife corridors become so critical.

Although newspaper headlines have often focused on Brazil and the rate of its tropical forest destruction, the pace of timber harvesting in our own country is proceeding even faster than market forces would dictate. Taxpayers are paying to cut down trees that were here long before this country was founded. I am convinced that the madness of this policy will be realized. The question

is: how much will be left by the time the policy shift is made?

Rain Forests

More than 50 percent of the world's species live in tropical forests, and yet each new study reveals that the rate of deforestation is accelerating. In fact, tropical rain forests are being destroyed faster than any other natural community. The rain forest belt once covered five billion acres—14 percent of the land surface of the Earth. Humans have destroyed half of that amount. Of the remaining rain forest, Latin America has 57 percent, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands have 25 percent, and West Africa has 18 percent.

The rain forests are imperiled for a variety of reasons. These beautiful, wild places

are destroyed and degraded to provide for human wants and needs. The demand for beef, particularly for the export market, has led cattlemen to burn the forests down to provide pasture. The demand for wood products, especially by the wealthier nations, has propelled timber companies to cut the trees rapaciously, without concern for the future. The demand for iron, gold, and other minerals beneath the rain forests has incited the miners and extractive industries to get the jungle out of their way. The demand for energy to generate the power for an industrial society has triggered the building of huge dams, which are submerging thousands of square miles of one of the oldest and most complex ecosystems on Earth. The demand for new areas to settle destitute peoples, rather than provide for an equitable distribution of land and wealth, has forced slash-and-burn agriculture to become a way of life.

Coral Reefs

Covering 15 percent of the world's coastline, coral reefs contain a vast diversity of life. They are the marine equivalent of the tropical forests, impressive in beauty and in the wild exuberance of life they support. Unfortunately, pollution from sewage and industry, sediment from deforested areas, run-off from agricultural and mining operations, damage from boats and tourists, and even dynamite for fishing are threatening the future viability of this fascinating ecosystem and its animals. In areas such as the Caribbean, spilled oil is the most widespread pollution problem. Interestingly, tank cleaning, ballasting, and other routine tanker operations are responsible for more oil pollution than are accidents.

Wetlands and Mangroves

Wetlands, including the mangrove forests, are disappearing quickly. The United States has lost 54 percent of its wetlands. In Latin America, almost 20 percent of internationally important wetlands are threatened by drainage related to development activities. Often, the mangrove estuaries are being disturbed for aquaculture, rice fields, coconut plantations, and overharvesting for timber and fuel wood. Mangrove destruction has received little attention, yet mangroves provide habitat for terrestrial species as well as breeding places for many commercial species of prawns and fish.

The grand endeavor to save habitat is crucial for the large and beautiful animals, but it is also, perhaps, the only way we can really give protection to the huge number of species that are small, arguably ugly, uncuddly, and uncharismatic. Biologists have

found that one tropical tree, for instance, may support 1,500 species of insects. Saving habitat works to save endangered species of plants. One out of ten tropical plant species has anticancer properties, yet most have not even been identified. So the mission to save the habitat of animals will have benefits we cannot even imagine, but we can be assured that they will be multidimensional, real, and extraordinarily significant.

Exploitation and Poaching

Often acting synergistically with habitat loss and fragmentation, exploitation is threatening some 37 percent of all endangered, vulnerable, and rare species of vertebrates. Many species of cats, giant otters, and monkeys are being decimated for their pelts. Elephants, sea turtles, and rhinoceros are being attacked with a vengeance. The last five white rhinos in Kenya's National Parks were killed after heavily armed poachers overwhelmed armed rangers guarding the animals.

Introduced Species

Another cause of extinction often underestimated is the introduction of alien or exotic species, which threatens 19 percent of all endangered, vulnerable, and rare species of vertebrates. Sometimes, the introduction of nonindigenous species is done intentionally, hoping to solve one problem but ending up creating a biological fiasco. The record on this front should give us serious pause before we unleash the new, patented organisms brought to us by biotechnology.

Other Factors

Other factors contributing to the decline and potential extinction of species is captures for the pet, zoo, and research trades, incidental kills associated with highways, and entanglements in nets and plastics.

Global Warming

Apart from these threats, a new one looms: global warming, which, by the middle of the next century, may team up with other environmental pollutants to rival habitat loss as the chief cause of extinction. Droughts, rising seas, disrupted rain patterns, changing vegetative cover, super hurricanes, and other vast global disturbances are some of the deleterious impacts that can be expected. Abnormally high seawater temperatures, for instance, may have contributed to coral "bleaching," which threatens the life of coral reefs.

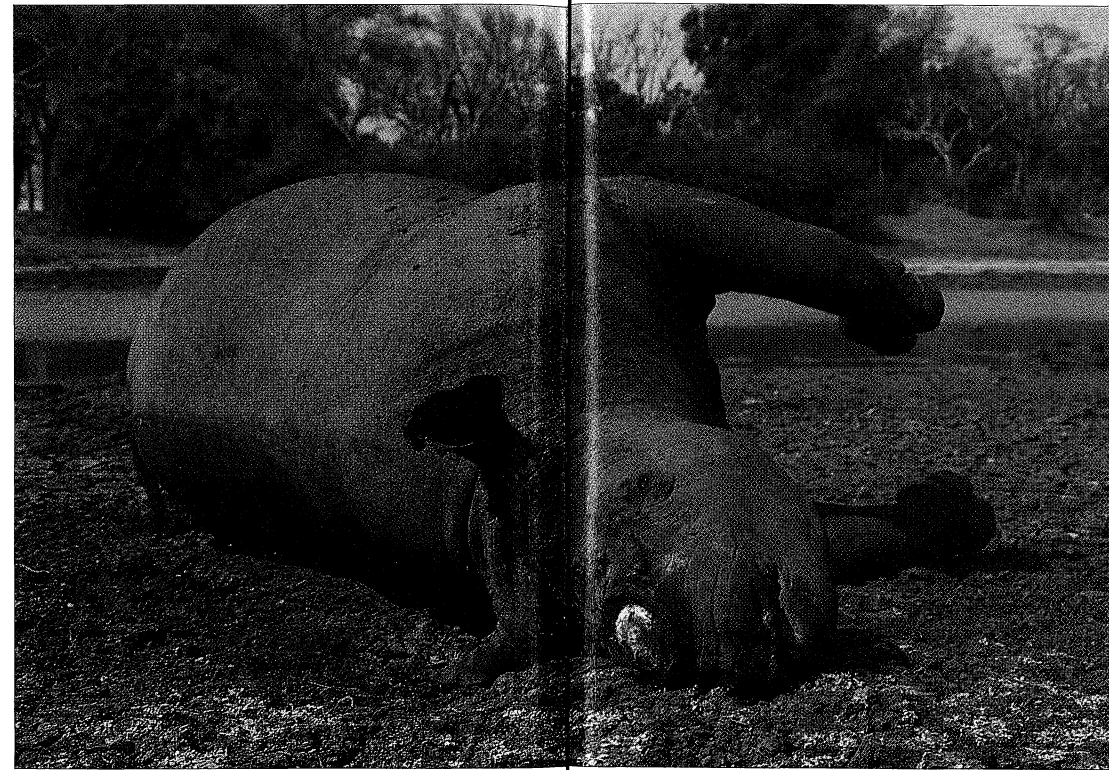
Deeper Connections

While recognizing the immediate causes

of extinction, we must also pay attention to the deeper causes. As the population of the world rapidly increases and the consumptive appetite of people grows, the threat to wildlife becomes more alarming. In fact, if we cannot stabilize our world population and learn to live more gently on the Earth, all other plans to save species will be doomed.

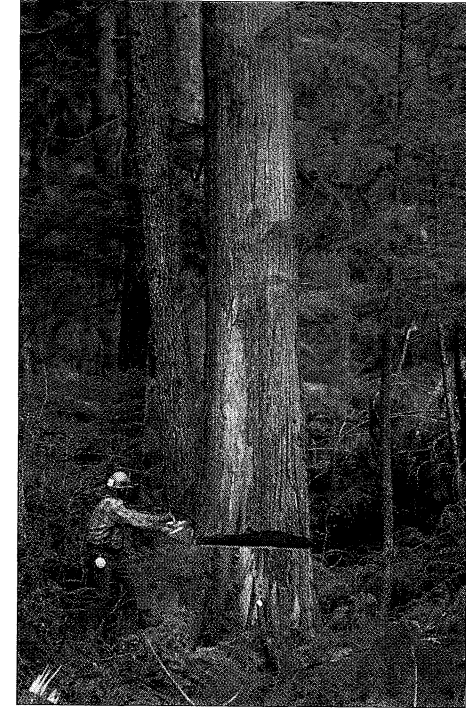
Poverty and the unequal distribution of land ownership are driving people to use resources without regard to the long-term consequences.

These patterns of destruction are part of an old mentality that perceives the jungle as an obstacle to overcome, nature as a thing

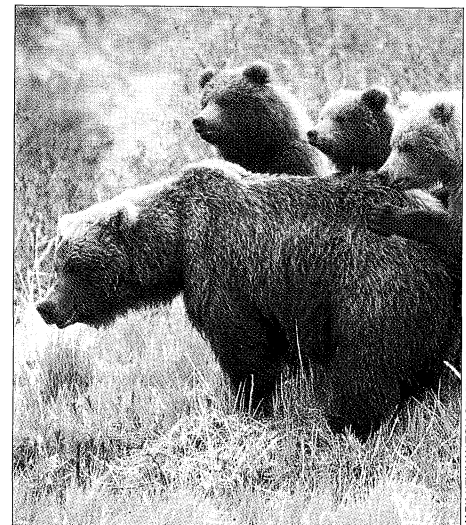


WARREN AND GERRY GARSITOM STACK & ASSOC.

Right: The destruction of old-growth forests threatens a myriad of species in the United States and abroad. **Lower right:** Habitat fragmentation can be particularly damaging to populations of large, wide-ranging animals such as bears. **Below:** Poachers attack with a vengeance extremely rare animals such as the black rhinoceros. **Exploitation threatens many endangered, vulnerable, and rare species.**



THOMAS KITCHINTON STACK & ASSOC.



MARK NEWMANTON STACK & ASSOC.

to conquer, and uncontrolled development as a sign of progress. The old frontier mentality—that wilderness is so vast it has no limits—still holds sway.

Instead of reducing, reusing, and recycling, industrialized societies are habituated to a throwaway mentality. The claim on resources made by these wealthier nations strains the world's ability to accommodate all who now exist in it.

Since these causes of extinction are not only additive, but also synergistic, we must approach the issues with a deep ecological understanding of their connectedness.

Needed: A New Global Convention

We need to create and shine a spotlight on a new global convention on the conservation of biological diversity.

This new convention should set forth an overall strategy that necessarily will involve each nation taking responsibility for the species within its territories. Governments must commit to realistic funding levels and mechanisms must be set forth that will transfer resources to poorer countries that hold much of the endangered wildlife. The scientific commitment must be greatly strengthened to provide inventories of animals, increased data for decision-making, and workable action plans.

As a part of this global convention, we need to expand greatly the use of "debt for nature" swaps. A major commitment to exchange the foreign debt of a country for an agreement to protect habitat could save millions of acres of land and the species that depend on this land.

Federal legislation, aimed at preserving biological diversity, can make the United States a world leader on this issue. The Endangered Species Act needs to be strengthened, not weakened. However, as powerful as this law has been in protecting species, much more needs to be done.

Programs to protect endangered species at the state level have grown since 1977, when the first federal funds were allocated. In some states, the attorneys general have taken action to protect species.

The global imperative to stop the increase in greenhouse gases is important to people, animals, and plants. We need to heed the warnings and reduce the use of fossil fuels. We need a new national energy plan that emphasizes efficiency, conservation, recycling, and renewable, safe, and inexhausti-

ble energy sources.

Science teachers should ensure that students are literate about the interdependence of all things. Even the youngest child should learn about the web of life. We need a real renaissance, a flowering of scholarship in the fields of biology, botany, and the other natural systems that support life. Some say that we are coming to the end of the postmodern age with its emphasis on industrialization. Perhaps it is time to shift to a new environmental paradigm, where life is studied, appreciated, and revered.

The military needs to convert to a broader concept of national security, where all life is protected from environmental assault whether from land, air, or sea. We need fewer military contractors and more environmental contractors.

Corporate behavior should be evaluated. The recent decision regarding "Dolphin Safe" tuna demonstrates that consumer power does make a difference.

This crusade is not just about the utility of animals to humans; it is about the spiritual challenge of recognizing that we are the environment and we are the animals. In the destruction of animals, we see our own.

During this environmental decade, the fate of millions of species will be determined. We are at the crossroads. Our own survival hangs in the balance. If the noblest instinct of them all is the reverence for life, then our nobility is being tested. If the greatness of a people can be measured in how it treats animals, then our greatness is being tested. If the greatest virtue of them all is compassion, then our virtue is being tested. This is, indeed, a profound test for our generation.

Failure would mean irreplaceable beauty irreversibly lost—a haunting hole in the fabric of Creation, a sadness stretching as far as the mind can imagine, as deep as the heart can endure. If we are to dream the new dream of a sustainable and humane society, we must prevent the apocalypse of the animals. So let us rise to the challenge and leave a legacy of love. We have sacred work before us. ■

Jan A. Hartke is The HSUS's recently appointed vice president for environment.

This article has been drawn particularly from *Keeping Options Alive: The Scientific Basis for Conserving Biodiversity*, and from *Conserving the World's Biological Diversity*, both published by World Resources Institute, IUCN, Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund-U.S., and The World Bank.

HELP RAISE HANDS FOR ANIMALS. IT'S AS EASY AS ONE, TWO, THREE.

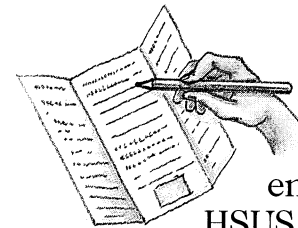
While The HSUS has been growing in size and influence, so, too, have the threats to the lives and well-being of companion animals, wildlife, farm animals, and laboratory animals everywhere: sport hunting and trapping continue to threaten the lives of wild animals; "factory farming" remains inhumane and cruel; the loss of ani-

mal lives in nonessential research persists; and dogs and cats continue to suffer abuse, neglect, and abandonment at the hands of heartless owners.

As a member of The HSUS, what can you do? Clearly, we need the active participation and continuing financial support of each member. But we also need help finding and recruiting new members for The HSUS. That's why we are launching our new membership-recruitment campaign, "Join the Helping Hands for Animals."

It's as easy as...1. Just remove the far left panel of the special envelope in the center of this magazine and think of the best person to invite to join. Write this person's name on the "Personal Invitation" and sign your name at the bottom.

To be successful, this exciting program needs the combined support of every member of The HSUS. All we ask is for each member to invite and sign up just one new member! That's right: if everyone successfully recruits only one friend



or family member, the strength and influence of The HSUS to end all forms of animal cruelty and abuse will double!

It's as easy as...2. Now write this person's address on the Invitation mailing label and fill out your name and return address (or use the peel-off label from your HSUS News).

Please help us reach our goal to protect the lives of all animals by completing the special envelope. This unique "new member in-

itation" is easy to complete and will allow you to extend your personal invitation to a neighbor, coworker, friend, family member, or someone else who shares our mutual concern for protecting the lives of all animals. And, with the holiday season fast approaching, a gift membership in The HSUS is a thoughtful way to combine gift-giving to friends with a special boost to The HSUS.

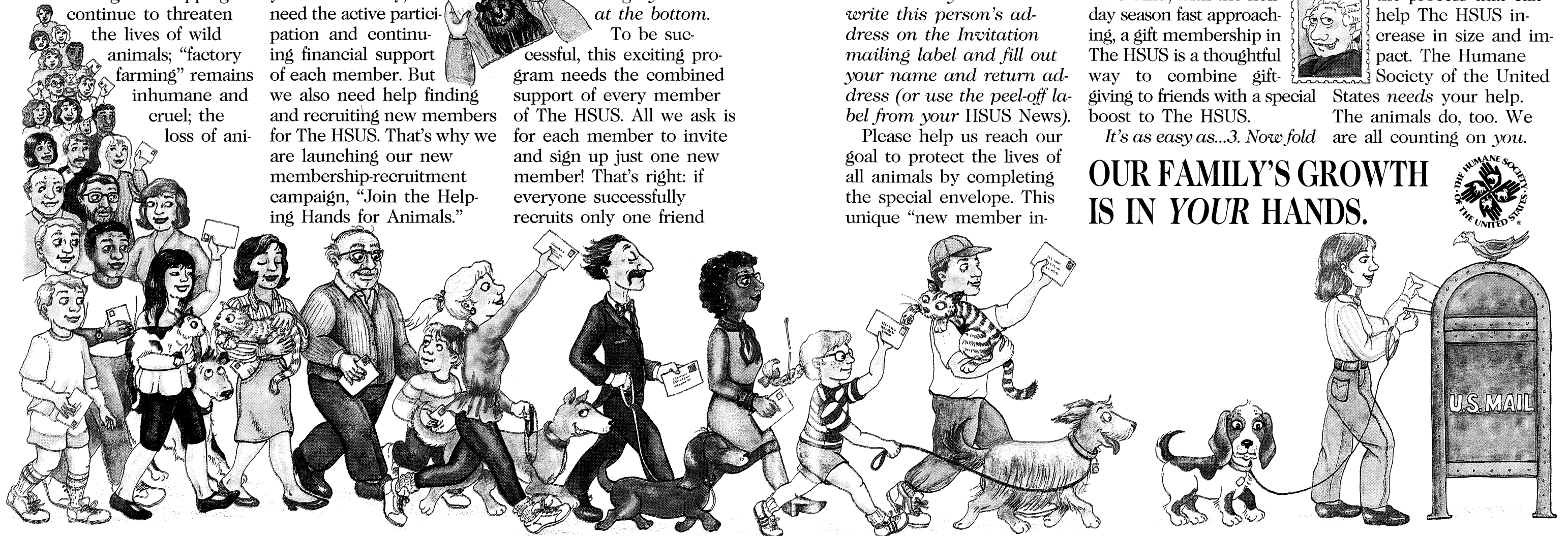
It's as easy as...3. Now fold

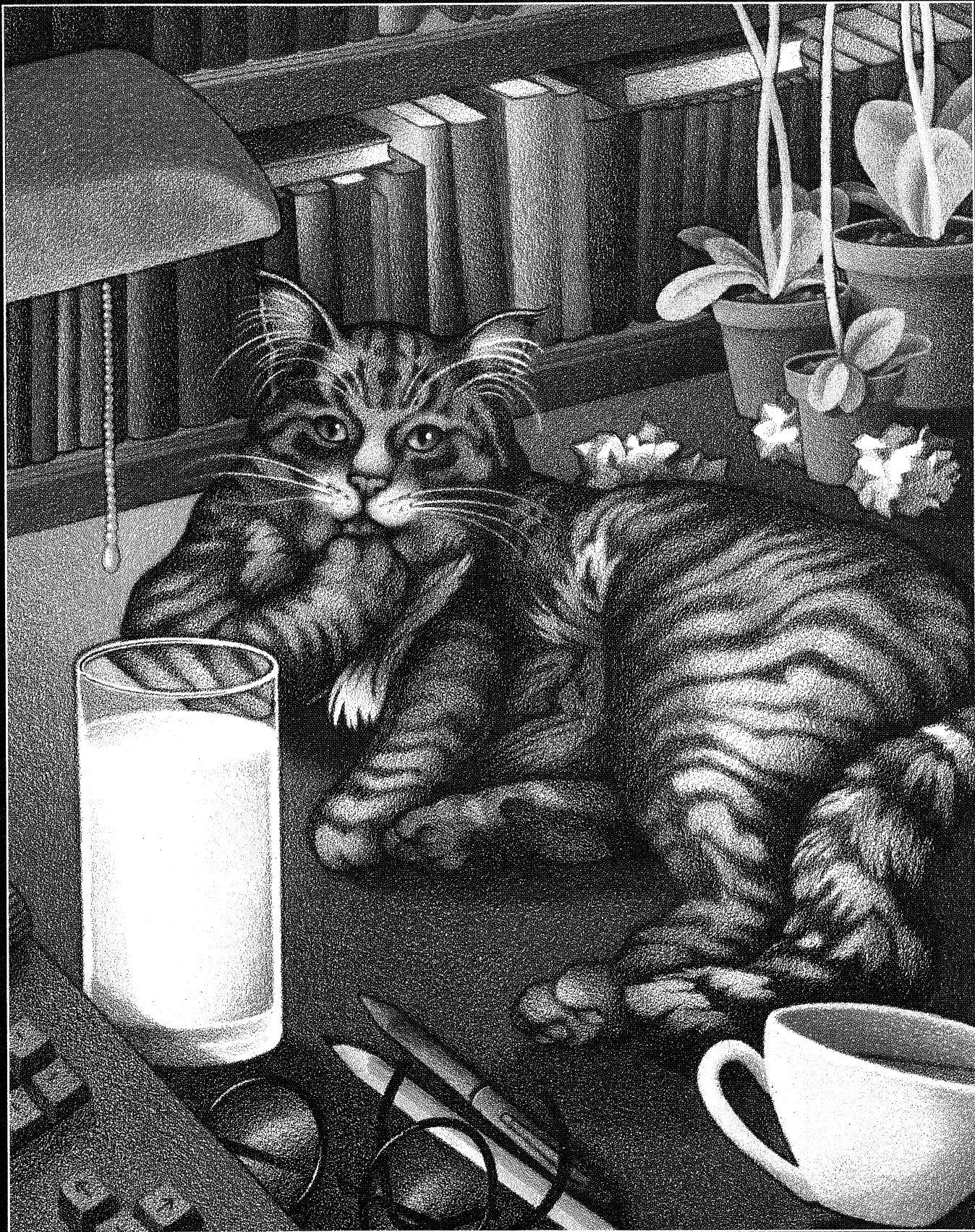
the Invitation (mailing label on the outside), add a first-class stamp, and drop it in the mail.

Please...take a few moments, now, to address your special new-member invitation form and begin the process that can help The HSUS increase in size and impact. The Humane Society of the United States needs your help. The animals do, too. We are all counting on you.



OUR FAMILY'S GROWTH IS IN YOUR HANDS.





A CANTICLE

I HAD A FRIEND...AND HIS NAME WAS ROADCAT. He was young when I was young and old when I was middle-aged. Still, our lives overlapped for a while, and I am grateful for that.

He was more than a friend, really. Friend and colleague is perhaps a better image. In fact, I sometimes introduced him to strangers as my research associate. We worked together on cold, gray afternoons, poring over books and papers, while the wood stove quietly crackled its way through another Iowa winter.

Sometimes he lay upon my lap and served as a round and honest book rest. He purred and occasionally reached out to turn pages for me, randomly and with a keen appreciation of the virtues surrounding leisurely scholarship. In the spring, as the days warmed, he moved to the desk, clearing a place for himself by pushing to the floor paper, pens, staplers, and other implements of a writer's trade.

He came from a field of long grass behind our house in Columbus, Ohio. Just a few inches in length, he walked along the cement of one of those smarmy subdivisions that make your teeth curl.

A neighbor's child abused him. He fought back, as any of us would, and the child's mother screamed something about rabid cats. My wife observed that the child deserved something more than he got and brought the kitten home for the customary saucer of milk.

I set him on my lap and said, "This is going to be a fine-looking cat." But we were on the move in those times and had already promised our daughter one of the kittens from a litter down the street. So the migrant was fed and sent along.

I sat down to read the paper, glanced up, and he had reappeared on the opposite side of the house at the patio screen door. He looked in at me, and I looked back. He coughed continuously and badly, tried to cry, but the effort was soundless. I picked him up, looked him over with a modest expertise gained from years of living around animals, and said I was taking him to the veterinarian's office.

The examination was lengthy. He had worms, ear mites, fleas, and a serious case of bronchitis. I asked the vet, "Is this a road cat?" The doctor smiled, "This is your genuine road cat."

We drove home together, he and I and, of course, four kinds of medicine in a brown paper bag. He sat on the car seat, small and uncomplaining, watching me, bright face hopeful. The nursery opened. Roadcat had come to stay.

And it is here, before going on, that I must deal with the issue of sentimentality.

BY ROBERT JAMES WALLER

FOR ROADCAT

If I do not come to grips with that, you might dismiss the rest of what I have to say as mawkish and lacking sound perspective.

Humans have an arrogant manner of ranking life, as if some squat, three-level hierarchy of existence were fact instead of intellectual artifice. God by various names is way up there, of course, in the first position. A little further down, just a little, lies humankind. Below that, and far below, according to common belief, rests a great squishy level of everything else. Here, we find plants and animals. Maybe even rivers and mountains.

All right, let's admit that some transcending presence roams above us. Some call it God, some call it science. Others of us see it as a design so perfect, a great swirling form of truth and beauty and justice and balance, that cosmic ecology might be our term.

That leaves us and the rest. And if you're going to attempt rankings, you better have some criteria, some standards of measurement, to use in making your judgments. The problem is that we humans generate the criteria by which the rankings are made. That's letting the fox in with the chickens, or the cat in with the canary, or us in with beauty. Take your choice.

I read the philosophers sometimes. They have criteria, such as consciousness and the ability to use technology, for determining who and what get to belong to various communities. But I do not trust their judgments, for the reason just mentioned. I prefer to think of civilizations that are, well, just different—separate, but parallel and equal.

And I don't spend much time trying to create workable taxonomies either. Others do that sorting rather competently. But taxonomies always end up looking like hierarchies, and things eventually get a little too classified for my taste.

So I just coast along with the notion of parallel civilizations. It works pretty well for me. Bears and butterflies, trees and rivers. I try to live alongside rather than above them. Our world is fashioned to make this difficult, but I try.

Those of you who see things differently, as a matter of "better than" or "on a higher plane than," are to be pitied. I'm sorry to be so blunt, but I know your view is only one-way, and that is down. As such, you miss the grand vistas, the shuddering sense of wonderment that comes from looking out across all the civilizations riding along together on Eddington's great arrow of time.

And so it was with my friend Roadcat.



Riding along on the arrow, we turned the days and marked the pages together. We grinned at each other over sunny afternoons on the deck, and, while he rested in the crook of my folded arm, we tilted our furry heads and stared high and hard at the lights of space just before dawn. Green eyes looking. Blue eyes looking. Wondering about ourselves and the others out there looking back.

We did that for twelve years plus a month or so. And we came to care, and care deeply, one for the other. He clearly saw, as I eventually did, that power and exploitation were not part of the reflections from each other's eyes. We came to a position of trust, and, in his wisdom and elegance, that was all he asked.

I violated that trust only once. I must take time to tell you about it, for the event contains the thread of a hard lesson.

Roadcat represented all the classic definitions of beauty and good taste. The long, soft pelage on his back and sides was predominantly black and gray. His chin was an off-white that flowed into creamy tan along his chest and belly. Symmetrically perfect were his markings, and he watched his world through green eyes of great immensity and color. His face was expressive, his conformation perfect.

Given that, it becomes understandable why we fell into the snare of seeing him as an object. When the local cat fanciers

association announced a show limited to animals of something called pet quality, we could not resist.

So Roadcat was put into a wire cage and carried off to the show held as part of the Cattle Congress festivities in Waterloo. Along with the sheep and horses and cattle and hogs, the pet-quality cats would have their day in the ring. He was terrified and panting as I carried him through the crowds, past the ferris wheel and midway barkers, past Willie Nelson's touring bus.

Roadcat's world was the forest, the warm place under the wood stove, and a canvas deck chair in the summer. He was content with himself and required no conspicuous recognition to prove his worth. His colleague apparently did require it. My wife, my daughter, and I wore blue T-shirts we had made up for the occasion that said "Roadcat" in bold, black letters across the front.

I watched him closely in the great hall where the judging was held. He was restless in the cage. Finally, he simply lay down and stared directly at me, straight in the eyes. I could see he was disappointed with me, and I was ashamed at having so ruthlessly shattered our mutual respect. Since a time when I was quite young, I have been angered by those public adulations of the human form called beauty contests, and here I was subjecting my friend to exactly that.

Roadcat refused to be an object. Normally temperate and reserved around strangers, he tore at the paper lining his cage on the judging platform, attempted to push his way through the metal top of his containment, and when the judge put him on a table for all to see, he simply slid onto his back and tried to scratch the well-meaning woman who was to measure his worth.

Suddenly, confusion erupted among the various judges and assistants. A huddle formed around Roadcat, and I went forward to see what was happening. One of the assistant judges had lodged a complaint, contending that Roadcat was a purebred and did not belong in a pet-quality show. The supreme arbiter was consulted, and her verdict was this: Roadcat was the prototype image of a breed called Maine coon cats, descendants of random matings between domestic cats who rode the sailing ships from Europe and wild cats of the New World.

In the American cat shows of the late nineteenth century, the Maine coon cats were the most treasured breed of all. The head judge explained that if this had been

1900, Roadcat would have been the perfect specimen.

But humans are never satisfied with nature, and the Maine coon cats, for reasons not clear to either Roadcat or me, had been bred over the decades to have longer noses. Thus Roadcat was held to be something of a relic, slightly out of date, and was allowed in the show.

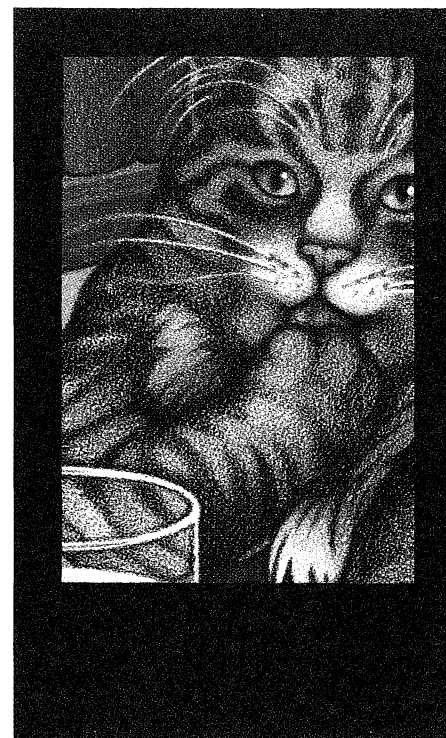
He scored high on appearance. The judge said, "He has a wonderful coat, a beautiful face, and the largest, prettiest green eyes I have ever seen." But, sliding and fighting and slashing out for the nearest human jugular vein within reach, he received a failing grade on the personality dimension and was awarded a fourth-place ribbon. Those green eyes brimmed with nasty satisfaction when the judge said, "I'll bet he's not like this at home, is he?"

Back through the midway, past the ferris wheel, past Willie Nelson's bus, and home to the woods. He was disinterested in his remarkable heritage, slept away his terror, and had nothing to do with any of us for some time. Gradually, he accepted my apologies, and our friendship warmed. But he made me work on recrafting our trust as though it were a fine piece of furniture.

Roadcat was good-natured about most things, though, and seemed to enjoy the little inanities we created around his presence. On pasta nights, his name was changed temporarily to Roadicotta. When my wife, Georgia, held her seasonal pottery sales at our home, he charmed the customers by finding a large pot in which to sit and look out at the commotion. He became "The Retailer" on those occasions. He was "The Chief Inspector" for anything new that came into the house or onto the property, including musical instruments, canoes, and furnaces. In his later years, we called him "The Old Duffer" or "The Big Guy." But mostly he went by Roadie.

He even tolerated the nonsense of my singing songs appropriate to the can of food he and I chose each morning. Seafood Supper? I sang a verse of an old whaling song to the pitch of the electric can opener. How about Country Style for Cats? That got him "San Antonio Rose" in B-flat major, and Elegant Entre was served with a sprinkling of Cole Porter.

The undergrowth and woodland trails around our house were Roadcat's beat. He was a hunter, but not a killer. Now and then smaller creatures died from fright or the initial pounce when he caught them, yet I never saw him intentionally kill anything.



Not even the night crawlers he brought to me after heavy rains. He plopped them down on a small throw rug, flipped it over to hamper their escape, and seemed pleased with himself.

The chipmunk was very much alive in the summer of 1986 when Roadie strolled through the front door and dropped it. The little guy hit the carpet running, dashed through a pile of old magazines, and disappeared in the general vicinity of the fireplace.

Judging that the chipper would not eat much, I was content to let him stay. The rest of the family, as usual, thought I was deranged. So, after four days of moving furniture, we flushed the poor fellow. The male dog nailed him to the floor in one of those wild scenes that seem to occur only at our house in the woods. Roadcat watched the entire battle with detached interest. Revenge for the cat-show humiliation finally was his.

In his habits he was careful, in his ways he was gentle. He found our dogs inelegant to the point of being despicable, but he liked the little female kitty that came along some years after he joined the craziness that is ours. He smiled tolerantly when she tried to nurse him and, through the years, gently washed her with a pink and tireless tongue.

Roadcat asked for little other than consideration and respect. He ate what was offered and left our food alone, except for my lunchtime glass of milk resting unattended

on the table. He could not resist that. Turning around, I would find him sitting by the glass, licking a milk-covered paw.

That was his only sin, and I reached a compromise with him on the matter by providing him occasionally with a little milk in an old jelly glass decorated with etchings of Fred Flintstone. I think Fred reminded him of earlier times, before humans developed the technology of killing to a high and ludicrous art, when his saber-toothed cousins left no doubt about the equality of things. When he thought of that delicious state of affairs, it made the milk taste even better, and he lingered over it, humming to himself about woodlands and cliffs and open meadows turning yellow in the light of a younger sun.

The early bronchitis had taken most of his voice. So when he wanted attention, he would lie on my computer printer while I typed, purr loudly, and look directly into my face. If that failed, he escalated his tactics by jumping into the box holding the printer paper and tearing it off the machine. Finally, if I was so insensitive as to further ignore his requirements, he would race around the house, across my desk, along the balcony railing, and, eventually, onto my lap. He seldom failed in these efforts.

I watched him turn a little more gray here and there, but I suppressed melancholy thoughts of the inevitable. Roadcat maintained a youngness of spirit and, even in his latter days, could race thirty feet up a tree on any crisp spring morning when he felt like doing so. Yet, as we read Barbara Tuchman's *Stillwell and the American Experience in China* together in the last months of his life, I could almost sense something as he purred his way through the pages. I would lift my eyes from the book, smile at him, and softly stroke his head, which he always acknowledged by a slight increase in the intensity of his purring.

In late September of 1987, I caught a slight hesitation in his leap to the basement table where I placed his food, safe from the growling hunger of the dogs. If I had not shared that breakfast time with him all those hundreds of mornings, I would not have noticed anything. But it was there—a slight, ever-so-slight, hesitation, as if he had to gather himself physically for what should have been an easy leap.

Simultaneously, he seemed to be eating a little less than was normal for him. The usual pattern was that he would eat about one-third of the can of food on the first serving. Then the female cat, who deferred to

his seniority, took her turn. Later, Roadcat would come by and finish whatever was left.

But the rhythm faltered. There always was something in the dish at the end of the day. And sometimes he ate nothing after I ladled out the food. His face was thinning a bit, and his coat lost a little of its sheen.

I was about to make an appointment at the veterinarian's when one morning he did not appear for his dawn excursion. It was his custom to come lie near my pillow at first light and wait for me to rise and let him out. The routine was invariant, and the morning it was broken I felt an unpleasant twinge in my stomach.

I searched the house and found him lying in a chair in the back bedroom upstairs. I knelt down beside him, spoke softly, and ran my hand over his fur. He purred quietly, but something was not right.

While waiting for the vet's office to open, I remembered the previous evening. He had seemed strangely restless. He would get on my lap, then down again, then return for another cycle of the same thing. He did that five times, and I remarked to my wife that it was something of a record. The last time he walked up to my chest and rubbed his cheek against mine. Though he was always pleasantly affectionate, such a gesture was a little out of the ordinary. He was trying to tell me that something was amiss, that it was almost over.

The initial diagnosis was a kidney problem, which is not unusual in older animals. After a few days, we brought him home. He was terribly weak and could scarcely walk. I laid him on a wool poncho, where he stayed the entire night.

In the morning, I carried him to his litter box in the basement and set him down by it. He seemed disoriented and stumbled. I noticed his right leg was limp and curled underneath him when he sat.

Back to the doctor. An X-ray disclosed a large tumor around his heart, which had resulted in a stroke the previous night that paralyzed his right side and left him blind. Wayne Endres is a kind and patient man, but I could see he was working at the edge of his technology.

The following day, a Wednesday, Wayne called with his report. If it had only been a stroke, we might have worked our way out of it, even though cats don't recover from such things easily. But clearly, the tumor was large and growing, and there was little to be done. It was up to me, of course. But Wayne's quiet voice carried the overtones of despair when he said, "Roadcat is not do-

ing well." He refused to offer hope. There wasn't any, and Wayne Endres is an honest man.

Here, at this point, the thunder starts, and civilizations that are normally parallel begin to intersect and become confused. Roadie and I shared a common language of trust, respect, and love, made visible by touching and aural by our private mutterings to one another. But, as it should be, the language of caring is a language of imprecision and is not designed for hard and profound choices.

I had no set of alternatives rich enough to evade the issue and none available that could even ameliorate it. And how could I understand what decision rules lay beating softly in the imprints of Roadcat's genetic spirals? For all I knew, they might be superior to mine, probably were, but I could not tell.

I know how I want to be treated under those dire conditions. But what right did I have to assume that so ancient a civilization as Roadcat's bears the same values as mine? How could I presume to judge when the standards are someone else's and I had not been told?

Surely, though, notions of dignity and suffering must be common to all that lives, whether it be rivers or butterflies or those who laugh and hold your hand and lie with you in autumn grass. So, gathering myself as best I could, I drove slowly through a red and yellow sunset toward Wayne Endres's clinic.

Someone once defined sentimentality as too much feeling for too small an event. But events are seldom small when you're dealing with true companions.

My friend and colleague from all the years and gentle moments lay on a table with white cloth-like paper under him. I sat down, and at the sound and smell of me, he raised his head, straight up came his ears, and his nose wrinkled. Though the room was brightly lit, his brain kept sending a false message of darkness, and the pupils of his green eyes dilated to the maximum as he strained for the light.

He had lost half his body weight. I touched him along the neck, and there was a slight sound. He was trying to purr, but fluid in his throat would not allow it. Still, he wriggled his nose and tried to send all the old signals he knew I would recognize.

I nodded to Wayne and put my face next to that of my friend, trying somehow to convey the anguish I suffered for him and for myself, for my ignorance of right and wrong, and for my inability to know what

he might want in these circumstances. I spoke softly to him, struggling with desperate intensity to reach far and across the boundaries of another nation, seeking either affirmation or forgiveness. When all that is linear failed me, I called down the old language of the forest and the plains to tell him, once and finally, of my gratitude for his simply having been.

And I wondered, as did S. H. Hay, "How could this small body hold/So immense a thing as death?"

Eventually, his head lowered, and it was done. Georgia and I carried him home in a blanket and buried him in the woods along one of the trails where he earned his living.

For some days after, I swore I would never go through that again. If it came to euthanasia, I would refuse to be present. I have changed my mind. You owe that much to good companions who have asked for little and who have traveled far and faithfully by your side.

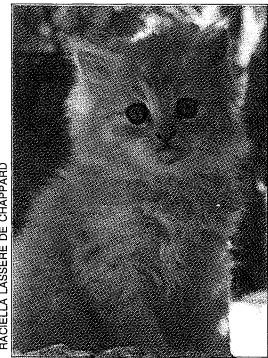
Roadcat didn't just live with us. He was a spirited participant in the affairs of our place. He was kind to us, and we to him. I remember, when I came home in the evenings, how he would move down the woodland path toward me, grinning, riding along on his little stiff-legged trot, tail held high with a slight curl at the tip. I'd hunker down, and we would talk for a moment while he rolled over on his back and looked at me, blinking.

Georgia and I put the shovel away, walked back into the darkness, and stood by the little grave. By way of a farewell, she said, "He was a good guy." Unable to speak, I nodded and thought she had said it perfectly. He was, indeed, a good guy. And a true friend and colleague who rode the great arrow with me for a time, helping me turn the pages in some old book while the wood stove quietly crackled its way through the winter afternoons of Iowa. ■

Robert James Waller, professor of management at the University of Northern Iowa, is a writer, photographer, and musician whose essays deal with the natural environment and other topics. His book of essays, Just Beyond the Firelight, was published by the Iowa State University Press in 1988 and is now in its second printing.

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JUST ONE LITTER



RACIELA LASERE DE CHAPRAUD

Cindy forgot that the apartment repairman was coming to fix her sliding glass door that day. She forgot to confine her seven-month-old kitten in the bedroom. When she got home from work, there Kali was, waiting for her outside under a pine tree. "Thank goodness you're okay," she sighed.

A week or so later, the kitten is putting on weight. She is pregnant. What a disappointment, Cindy thinks. She had been waiting for Kali to go through one heat cycle before she had her spayed—she'd always heard that was best. But Cindy isn't worried about finding homes for the kittens. She will just take them into the clothing store where she works and put them in the window.

Cats have surpassed dogs as the most popular pets in the United States, with 30.6 million households owning cats. As a result of this surge in interest, the number of cats entering animal shelters has also dramatically increased.

Given the rate at which cats reproduce, it becomes clear why there are so many homeless cats. For example, if Cindy's cat were allowed to breed at will, it could be the source of 420,000 cats in only seven years. But 420,000 is not the root of the pet-overpopulation problem. Kali's one litter is.

Well, the kittens are a real success. All 4 find good homes in one week. Cindy decides to get her cat spayed, but she's in no hurry. After all, Kali never

goes out.

Six months later, Kali's kittens are all in homes and have matured. The striped female who went to the mother with two children is no longer kitten-cute, and the kids don't pay as much attention to her anymore. She is left outside and out of the way most of the time. When she delivers 5 kittens, the family puts a free-kitten ad in the paper. Luckily, a man is interested in all 5. He says he wants to use them as barn cats on his property. In fact, he sells the kittens to a local dealer, who sells them to a research facility. The family does not have the mother cat spayed.

Every day, the newspapers are filled with classified "free pet" ads. Many of the people seeking to give away litters of puppies and kittens find success—they find "good" homes for each one in their litter. They think the book is closed once the last puppy or kitten leaves with its new owner, that the problem is solved. It isn't.

In a recent case in DeKalb County, Georgia, a man was convicted of torturing and killing 77 cats. He admitted to torturing the felines and later photographing their remains. He kept detailed records of each cat's acquisition, appearance, behavior, and treatment in a log he dubbed "TCJHTD"—"This Cat Just Had To Die." This man obtained cats through newspaper ads for free kittens.

The family that took the black male kitten say he's a great cat. They let him out periodically, especially since it's summer. Now that the cat is eight months old and sexually active, he spends a great deal of time roaming the neighborhood looking for receptive females. One day his excursions take him across a highway, where a car strikes him. He is left to die near

Many of us take for granted the facts of pet overpopulation, but others may not be completely aware of the devastating consequences of a single unplanned litter of puppies or kittens. If you are overpopulation "litter-ate," we urge you to pass along this article to someone who could benefit from it; if you are not, we urge you to take heed.

BY KATE
RINDY
AND
RHONDA
LUCAS DONALD

Many of the people seeking to give away litters of puppies and kittens . . . think the book is closed once the last puppy or kitten leaves with its new owner.

the median. The family discovers their dead pet, and the parents tell their crying children that these things happen and that they'll get another cat. In his short life, this cat fathers 8 litters—50 kittens.

The young woman who took the black female kitten lives in a no-pets apartment. When her landlord discovers the cat, he orders her to get rid of her pet or be evicted. Unable to move and unable to find anyone to take a mostly grown cat, she takes the animal to the outskirts of town and abandons her. In the year and a half before this cat dies of distemper, she has 4 litters of feral kittens.

The young man who adopted the striped female has her spayed when she turns six months old and keeps her indoors always. She will be a healthy, wonderful companion for him for sixteen years.

Fifteen months after Kali first became pregnant, 83 kittens have been born. Cindy found "good" homes for Kali's first 4 kittens, but she didn't consider the other 79. The sad fact is, every litter, planned or accidental, adds to pet overpopulation. The cycle must stop before it starts—before that one litter.

Jack and Susie bought a male Akita puppy from a large pet-store chain. Of course, he came complete with AKC papers registering him as a purebred. They name him Bear, and as he grows and matures sexually, Susie can barely handle his 100-plus pounds. He is erratic, seems preoccupied, and won't listen to her when they're outside. She has lost control of him six times already, and he ran loose for several hours each time before coming home.

Jack takes Bear to a dog trainer, who advises him to neuter the dog. Neutering would make Bear manageable, reduce his inclination to run off, and help prevent him from becoming aggressive.

But Jack wants to use Bear as a stud dog. He paid \$500 for Bear, not to mention the trips to the vet for shots, checkups, and even vitamins. Surely, the puppies should bring in a lot of money! Somehow, though, he never arranges to stand Bear as a stud; meantime, the dog is getting more and more difficult to handle.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) reports that it has 36 million purebred dogs registered in its studbook. In 1989 alone, the AKC registered more than 1 million dogs

and 550,300 litters. Although there is a demand for purebred dogs, purebred pets are not immune to the whims of people who see animals as disposable commodities.

The HSUS estimates that as many as 25 percent of the animals entering shelters each year are purebreds. One look through the classified ads reveals how many free pets are registered or come with papers. Many people believe that breeding their purebred pet would be profitable. After all, they paid hundreds of dollars for their pet. (In truth, the reason "mall pets" cost so much is that a large part of the purchase price goes to paying the hefty rent the pet shop pays the mall for its prime location.)

In reality, the average "backyard" breeder may sell only half of the litter and end up giving away the rest. If the breeder has provided proper veterinary care to all of the animals, his or her profit margin is usually slim or nonexistent. There may be a dog or cat, even a purebred, for every home in America, but there is not a home for every available dog and cat.

One day, Susie is walking Bear in a park when they encounter a large male shepherd. Bear lunges, breaking his lead, and attacks the other dog. Susie tries to separate the dogs and is bitten by

The charm of kittens can turn to suffering, caused by pet owners who allow their animals to breed indiscriminately. Insets, left and center: unwanted animals are often bought at auction for use as laboratory-research subjects, or, right: euthanatized in shelters nationwide.

Bear. The police finally stop the fight. Each dog has cuts and bite wounds but is otherwise okay.

Jack decides to have Bear neutered. He is astonished at how much better behaved Bear becomes and how much happier the dog is. Unfortunately, Bear manages to father 6 litters of puppies before his surgery.

The female dogs Bear impregnated have 34 puppies among them. Some of these puppies inherit their father's aggressiveness and pose problems to people in the neighborhood. One man, tired of the dogs coming into his yard, manages to shoot one of them. Two more die when they eat rat poison. Four are killed by cars. Animal-control officers capture 7 more of these nuisance animals and must euthanatize them because they are ill or unadoptable. One of

the dog owners recognizes the size and strength of the puppies and sells his 4 to a dogfighter. One pet owner takes his dog's 4 puppies to the animal shelter and then has his dog spayed. Of the 34 puppies Bear fathers, 22 father or give birth to 156 more puppies.

Pet overpopulation is not a new issue to most people. Since the 1960s, groups such as The HSUS have worked to inform people of the problem of too many pets and not enough homes and to encourage education, sterilization, and legislation to protect animals and address pet overpopulation.

But "pet overpopulation" may seem abstract to the average person who just has one litter on his hands. One—or even a handful—of animals from one person does not seem like an insurmountable problem.

With a human population already saturated with pets and ten or twenty people bringing litters into each animal shelter daily, the picture becomes clearer.

Pet overpopulation comes from many sources. It comes from people who breed animals intentionally for profit or hobby. While it is true that there will always be a market for purebred animals, that market should be filled by conscientious breeders who are committed to improving their animals' breed in terms of genetics, behavior, and temperament, as well as desirable color, size, and shape. Pet overpopulation comes from puppy mills, those cruel, often horrendous breeding farms that supply pet-store animals. Pet overpopulation comes from the animals abandoned and left to fend for themselves, reproducing litter after litter.

Pet overpopulation comes from animal shelters that do not ensure that the pets they offer for adoption are spayed or neutered. These shelters are revolving doors for pets and their offspring.

Pet overpopulation, or at least attitudes that perpetuate the problem, even comes from advertisements for pet products. Happy children romp with puppies and kittens in an effort to push cat and dog food. These companies are very concerned about keeping pets healthy through good nutrition, but they also do their part to foster pet overpopulation and assure more sales.

Finally, pet overpopulation comes from pet owners who allow their unaltered pets outside, where they do breed. It comes from people who allow their pets to have "just one litter," for whatever reason, or from pet

owners who realize that "Sam" is really "Samantha" only after she delivers kittens.

Many of these people would appear to be model pet owners. They provide veterinary care for their animals, give them special toys, fancy collars, and gourmet pet food. They spend a lot of money on their pets—sales of pet products are expected to exceed \$8 billion this year. When they allow their animals to breed, however, even if by accident, they are irresponsible and the root of the pet-overpopulation problem.

There are many causes of pet overpopulation, but there are also many solutions. For more than twenty years, The HSUS has worked to expose the cruelties of pet overpopulation and the ways to prevent the unnecessary suffering it causes. In the last three years, our "Be a P.A.L.—Prevent A Litter" campaign has been implemented by thousands of individuals and groups across the country.

Veterinarians in increasing numbers are educating their clients about the importance and advantages of having their pets spayed or neutered. Cooperative programs by veterinarians, humane groups, and individuals offer reduced-fee surgeries for animals whose owners can't afford the regular price.

Legislation that protects animals by requiring responsible pet ownership is in place in many parts of the country. Mandatory sterilization of shelter animals, differential licensing, and ordinances regulating the breeding of animals all contribute to responsible pet ownership.

Pet overpopulation is not the millions of surplus animals born each year but one animal or one litter, turned in, given away, sold, abandoned, or no longer cared for. This correlation is rarely understood by the individuals turning in, giving away, selling, or abandoning their animals.

Our challenge is to reach people before they reach the point of giving up their pet, before they allow their pets to breed, and, in many cases, before they make the decision to get a pet in the first place. Talk to your neighbor, your city council, your local media. With a single litter, a single animal, we can make a difference.

Kate Rindy is an associate in the HSUS Companion Animals Division and Rhonda Lucas Donald is editor of Shelter Sense.



THE TERRY WILD STUDIO—INSETS (L. TO R.): HSUS; HSUS/BAKER; HSUS/WRIGHT

NO WAY OUT FOR BIM BOM?

In May HSUS investigators Lisa Landres and Bob Reder visited the Alex Nichols Agency horse import/export facility in Newburgh, New York, where more than sixty animals from the Russian "Great Bim Bom Circus" were being warehoused. They found many animals confined in tiny circus traveling cages, including a seven-foot-tall bear in a four-by-four-foot cage. Twelve dogs were each lodged in

file-cabinet-sized crates. The animals were seldom taken from their cages for exercise.

Problems began when the entire circus—human and animal performers alike—was stranded financially in Atlanta, Georgia, by its promoter. The Alex Nichols Agency, under contract to transport the animals, transferred them to its Newburgh facility. Since then, the animals have been in an international Twilight Zone. They have run up a substantial tab at the Nichols Agency, and the Russians, who say they want the animals back, haven't, as yet, paid up. Until the bill is paid, Nichols won't let the animals go.

The HSUS called on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to make an immediate inspection of the Newburgh facility and put pressure on the State Department to allow return of the animals to the Soviet Union. Although the USDA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continue to investigate, for now, the animals are stuck, and HSUS staff continue to burn up the telephone wires



Three lions belonging to the Bim Bom Circus sleep on top of each other in the cramped confines of their circus traveling cage.

trying to resolve the impasse.

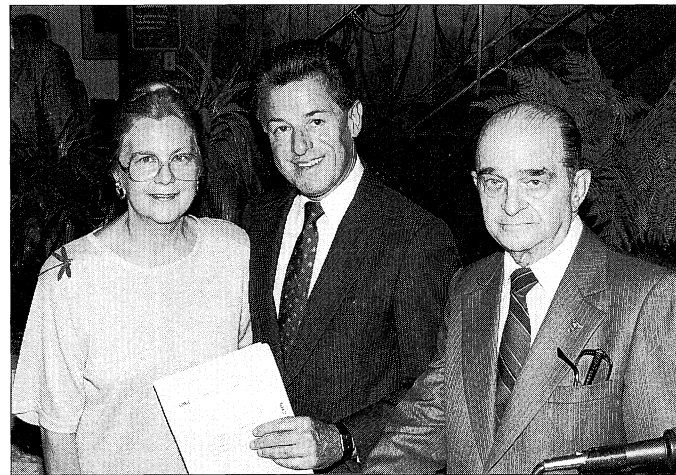
PETS IN HOUSING GET A BREAK

New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio has signed a bill to allow senior citizens to own pets in subsidized senior citizens housing. For years, the bill's sponsor, State Sen. Chris Jackman, has championed the cause of tenant pet ownership. State Sen. Jackman singled out Mrs. Isabella Troupiansky, HSUS's Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Nina Austenberg, and Nancy

Van Oossanen and Ann Konig of Animals Need You to thank for their efforts in support of this bill.

FIGHT FOR WILD BIRDS

The HSUS has joined forces with the ASPCA, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Society of Animal Protective Legislation to form the Coalition to End the Wild Bird Trade. A.B. A649, which would ban the commercial wild-bird trade in New Jersey, has been introduced by



State Sen. Chris Jackman (right) and The HSUS's Nina Austenberg greet New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio (center).

Assemblyman D. Bennett Mazur and is the current focus of the coalition.

New Jersey HSUS members are urged to write their state legislators in support of A.B. A649. ■

MERRY-ALL FARM CLOSED

Responding to a Vermont Department of Agriculture suit, on July 2, 1990, a Windsor County superior court judge ordered the Merry-All Farm for Animals closed and its remaining forty-nine dogs released to the state. The court agreed that the shelter did not comply with regulations for record keeping, food storage, running water, waste disposal, ventilation, and feeding.

The judgment is the result of a civil suit brought against Merry-All Farm by the state more than two years ago. New England Program Coordinator Frank Ribaud has worked with state and humane officials since the onset of the case.

NEW APPOINTMENT

Arnold Baer was recently appointed associate director of the New England Regional Office. Mr. Baer worked for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for fourteen years as an environmental engineer. He also has served as a cruelty investigator, board member, and president of the board for the Columbia-Greene Humane Society in Hudson, New York. ■

BURRO DERBY SCRUTINIZED

Representatives from the West Coast office and other humane organizations monitored the Old Miners' Association's National Burro Derby, held in August in Big Bear, California. While the three-day, forty-three mile event is not sanctioned by any of the humane groups, the observers were present to ensure that animals were not mistreated and that the conduct of the event was in compliance with

provisions of burro care and handling spelled out in a permanent injunction obtained by The HSUS in 1972. The observers reported receiving good cooperation from the contestants, the judges, and the Old Miners' Association.

BILLS FAIL IN CALIFORNIA

A.B. 2461, Assemblyman Jack O'Connell's Draize Test Ban, was vetoed by Gov. George Deukmejian after a hard-fought victory in the Assembly and the Senate. The bill will be reintroduced in the next session and receive the West Coast office's full support.

A.B. 3482, introduced by Assemblyman Bruce Bronzan, would have allowed groomers and other non-veterinarians to perform simple tartar removal on dogs' and cats' teeth. It was also vetoed by Gov. Deukmejian. It will be reintroduced in January.

S.B. 2224, introduced by State Sen. Diane Watson, and A.B. 786, introduced by Assemblyman Richard Polanco,

to regulate further the pet-store trade, were withdrawn from committee in early August when sponsors reached an impasse on amendment language. Pet-store-industry representatives and the humane community have agreed to formulate a new, cooperative bill for the 1991-92 session.

In cooperation with The HSUS's Midwest Regional Office and the president of the

cluding Budweiser, but which does not distribute such products outside of Arkansas, did not sponsor the charro rodeo, and whose officials apparently knew nothing about the rodeo until your letters started arriving. The HSUS regrets any inconvenience caused to M.K. Distributors, Inc. The HSUS plans to forward your letters to Anheuser-Busch headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. ■



A humane society observer inspects several burros during a rest stop in the Old Miners' Association's National Burro Derby.

Kansas Federation of Humane Societies, the West Coast office has distributed more than 20,000 postcards to local humane societies and HSUS members and friends to be sent to the Kansas governor to protest against the exportation of sick puppy-mill puppies.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The summer issue of the *West Coast Regional Office Report* urged HSUS members to write letters of protest to Budweiser for its partial sponsorship of a charro rodeo in Coachella, California. The address given was for M.K. Distributors, Inc., which is a distributor of Anheuser-Busch products, in-

cluding Budweiser, but which does not distribute such products outside of Arkansas, did not sponsor the charro rodeo, and whose officials apparently knew nothing about the rodeo until your letters started arriving. The HSUS regrets any inconvenience caused to M.K. Distributors, Inc. The HSUS plans to forward your letters to Anheuser-Busch headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. ■

A civil penalty of \$20,000 was assessed, and Kiser Lake's license was suspended for thirty days, to continue thereafter until the owner can demonstrate full compliance with the AWA.

The Great Lakes staff has confirmed that Putnam, Campaign, Crawford, Darke, Madison, Perry, and Lawrence county dog pounds continue to release animals to bunchers. HSUS members in these counties are urged to contact the Great Lakes office, at (419) 352-5141, for guidance on how to help abolish this practice.

MORE DEALINGS WITH DOGS

The HSUS has investigated an East Coast dog collector who has been coming to Ohio monthly to purchase young puppies and transport them back East. This person reports that he resells the puppies as pets in his retail business.

Program Coordinator Robin Weirauch has been orchestrating efforts with other humane societies to track such activities. We are concerned that this puppy-buying venture actually encourages people to raise more litters. The fate of these puppies has not been verified.

In West Virginia, dogs are being purchased by a Pennsylvania business that in turn sells the animals to a research institution. Ms. Weirauch assisted a local humane society's investigation of a complaint regarding the treatment of the dogs at a veterinarian's office where they are taken for rabies vaccinations and health certificates without a proper physical examination. ■

KISER LAKE KENNEL FINED

The USDA filed an order to cease and desist from any further violation of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) against a major Ohio dog dealer, Kiser Lake Kennels. Kiser Lake collects dogs from several sources, including dog pounds in at least seven Ohio counties, and resells them for use in research laboratories; this practice is called bunching.

The USDA sought the order based on thirteen violations of the AWA,

PUPPY MILLS RAIDED

On June 19, 1990, agents from the Kansas attorney general's office, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, police and animal-control officers, veterinarian Debbie Anderson, State Inspector Shon Koenig, and Midwest Regional Director Wendell Maddox raided a Topeka, Kansas, puppy mill and removed ninety-six animals. The owners of the kennel were charged with animal cruelty, a class B misdemeanor, and violation of the state's Animal Dealers Act, a class A misdemeanor. This was the first instance of enforcement of the state's 1988 Animal Dealers Law that led to the removal of animals.

Mr. Maddox also helped plan a raid of a kennel in Utica. High Plains Humane Society Investigator Pam Binder of Hays, Kansas, with veterinarian Steve Mossier, animal-control officers, and the Ness County



During a raid in Topeka, Kansas, Dr. Debbie Anderson and Sgt. William Dickerson examine a cairn terrier puppy.

sheriff's department, seized sixty-seven animals. Forty-four were saved; the rest were too sick to survive.

The kennel's owner was charged with cruelty to animals and violation of the Animal Dealers Act on July 3 by Ness County Attorney Tom Fiegel. This same owner had been convicted of animal cruelty two months prior to the raid by the Ness County District Court. She had been fined an undisclosed amount and given a jail sentence, to be waived if the kennel was cleaned and the

dogs sold within sixty days.

Attorney General Robert Stephan has also filed charges against a Rossville, Kansas, kennel operator and given a southeast Kansas kennel owner a choice of selling her dogs within sixty days or facing charges of cruelty.

BOYCOTT STIRS UP BREEDERS

As a result of the HSUS boycott of midwestern puppy mills, reports are already surfacing that breeders in the midwest are complaining about steep reductions in orders and prices.

Breeders who were selling cocker spaniels for \$65 last year are now getting only \$35 for them. Brokers who buy from breeders and sell to pet shops report that sales have dipped 15-50 percent compared to last year. Some breeders have had to go out of business because there was no market, while others are giving dogs away to cut down on overhead.

Some breeders predict that business will pick up again around Christmas, the industry's busiest time of the year, but others aren't so confident. ■



Last year puppy-mill puppies like these were selling for \$65 each. Due to the HSUS boycott, prices have dropped to \$35.

SPAY/NEUTER BILL PASSES

Louisiana animal protectionists successfully pushed into law a mandate that all animals adopted from public or private shelters be spayed or neutered. The new Louisiana statute, sponsored by State Sens. Willie E. Crain and Larry S. Bankston, requires that adult animals receive the surgery thirty days after adoption. Puppies and kittens must be spayed or neutered at six months of age.

ANNUAL TURKEY DROP CANNED

In Yellville, Arkansas, promoters of the Annual Turkey Drop have decided to discontinue this cruel event. After much negative publicity generated by the Gulf States Regional Office and the *National Enquirer*, Gov. Bill Clinton urged the town to find a "less offensive" manner to celebrate its festivity. Regional Director James Noe attributes this victory to the hundreds of calls and letters from animal protectionists.

NEW COCKFIGHT CAMPAIGN

In Oklahoma, Program Coordinator Dorothy Weller launched the Gulf States office anticockfighting campaign through newspaper, television, and radio interviews. Oklahomans are encouraged to become politically active in this campaign. Call the Gulf States office at (512) 854-3142 for more information. ■

RACEHORSES AT RISK

Soon after the HSUS Southeast Regional Office defeated legislative attempts by racetracks to weaken Florida's anti-horse-doping law, the state Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering issued an emergency order lifting all restrictions on the use of corticosteroids.

The HSUS contends the Division's action is in violation of the very state law the agency is supposed to enforce.

We have already attempted unsuccessfully to persuade Gov. Bob Martinez's office to require his political appointees to comply with state law. We are now considering legal action against the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering for evading its law-enforcement responsibilities.

PROTECTION FOR NEW PET OWNERS

Beginning October 1, people who buy a puppy or kitten in Florida will have a state-supported guarantee of the animal's health. A new law, sponsored by Rep. Bob Sindler and State Sen. Jeanne Malchon, requires that most dogs and cats sold in the state be checked by a veterinarian before sale and accompanied by a certificate of health. It provides for the return of sick animals for reimbursement and for reimbursement of related veterinary costs incurred by those owners who keep their ailing animal.

By requiring pet dealers to be financially responsible for the animals' health, we hope breeders will be forced to pro-

vide more humane treatment.

ANIMAL-CRUELTY CONVICTION

Florida had its first jury conviction for felony animal-cruelty since the new law went into effect less than a year ago.

Everston Eugene Webb was found guilty of aggravated animal abuse after stabbing his young dog to death with a butcher knife.

A circuit judge sentenced Mr. Webb to three and a half years in prison after expressing concern that, without

proper punishment, Mr. Webb might turn his violent temper against a person.

The HSUS strongly supported the aggravated animal abuse legislation in the 1989 Florida legislative session.

SHOULD TOURISTS FEED DOLPHINS?

Dolphin-feeding cruises are the latest craze in coastal waters, but efforts are underway to stop the burgeoning industry before it becomes too established.

The tour boats, which oper-

ate in the Gulf of Mexico and along the southeastern Atlantic coast, locate pods of wild dolphins and begin a schedule of feeding. The dolphins soon anticipate the food and return to the spot daily. The dolphins become too dependent on handouts as a food source, are exposed to illness from the poor quality food, and lose their natural caution about approaching boats and people. The Southeast office supports a proposed rule by the National Marine Fisheries Service that will prohibit public feeding of marine mammals. ■

HSUS OPENS NEW OFFICE

Nearly 100 members and supporters of The HSUS attended a reception to honor the opening of the new South Central Regional Office in Knoxville, Tennessee. The event was hosted by HSUS board member Carroll Thrift and his wife, Patty.

HSUS President John A. Hoyt and Executive Vice-President Paul Irwin were special guests welcoming Phil Snyder as director of the new regional office.

Mr. Hoyt and Mr. Snyder met with members of the news media to discuss regional concerns, including humane sheltering, legislation, and major cruelty activities.

NEW REGION TACKLES ISSUES

With the assistance of South Central regional staff, Tyker Gonzales, president of Prevent



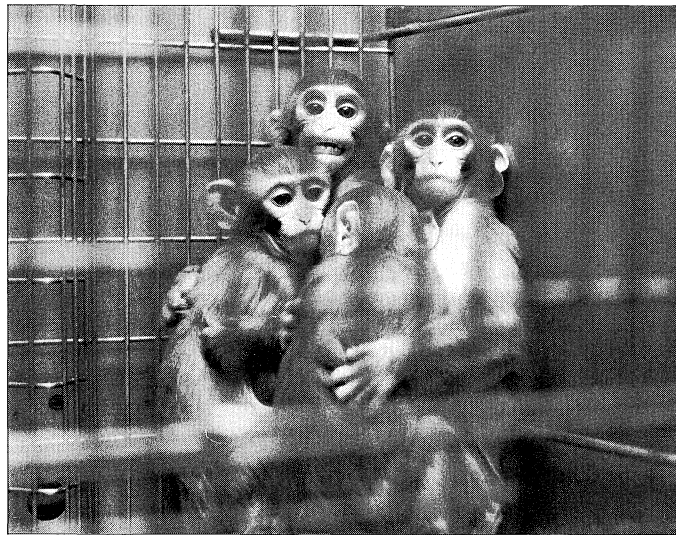
HSUS President John A. Hoyt (left) and Executive Vice President Paul Irwin were special guests at the South Central Regional Office's opening banquet.

A Litter (PAL), successfully orchestrated the passage of a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for Craven County, North Carolina. This was the first ordinance addressing animal control to be passed in Craven County.

South Central staff provided testimony along with members of Friends of Animals and local animal-protection groups to halt the passage of an ordinance allowing carriage-horse services in Asheville, North Carolina. A similar ordinance is

pending in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Board of Commissioners in Durham, North Carolina, adopted an ordinance regulating the care and treatment of animals in pet shops, including minimum standards of care, permits, selling of animals, and record keeping. The Animal Protection Society of Durham actively supported this ordinance, and the South Central Regional Office staff worked with Durham County attorney Willie S. Darby in recommending changes in the final draft. ■



The care these primates receive in the laboratory is still not regulated, five years after standards were amended to the AWA.

USDA STANDARDS NOT GOOD ENOUGH

There has been loud grumbling in the senate halls recently about regulations setting minimum standards for living conditions and care for a variety of dogs, cats, and primates used for laboratory experiments.

In July the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) passed its final standards for the care and housing of laboratory rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters. These new standards, intended to implement Animal Welfare Act (AWA) amendments passed in 1985, contain important loopholes concerning cage-size requirements. Research facilities are allowed to bypass the minimum standards requirements of cages spelled out in the AWA with the approval of an in-house review board. The USDA's new standards also allow researchers to continue using existing small cages until they wear out. (A stainless steel cage can last more than twenty-five years.)

New minimum-care stan-

dards for dogs, cats, chimpanzees, and monkeys were expected as a result of the 1985 AWA amendments. Five years later, the USDA still has no such specific regulations finalized to carry out Congress's intentions regarding these animals.

Congress passed the 1985 amendments, called the Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals Act, "because of the demonstrable and persistent unsatisfactory animal-care conditions in the nation's laboratories," senators stated at that time.

Congressional intent is being undermined not only by the USDA but also by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), an agency responsible only to the president of the United States. The OMB is trying to force the USDA to delay the issuance of its regulations and to make them so vague as to severely limit their enforceability.

As a result of the USDA's inadequate standards and the OMB's delaying tactics, this summer many senators sent let-

ters to both OMB Director Richard Darman and Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter demanding that the regulations include language making the Animal Welfare Act strictly enforceable and emphasizing that "implementation must lead to measurable improvements in animal care."

The HSUS and six other humane groups, representing 2,260,000 members and constituents, united to send our opinion to Mr. Darman and Mr. Yeutter that clear, enforceable, and strong regulations are absolutely necessary and that they be issued without further delay. The HSUS plans to take this message to senior administration officials in face-to-face meetings.

ADC PROGRAM NEEDS NEW FOCUS

For eighty years, the federal Animal Damage Control (ADC) program has sought to "control" wild animals that interfere in any way with human activities. To achieve this "control," federal ADC agents an-

nually kill hundreds of thousands of coyotes, wolves, mountain lions, bears, prairie dogs, foxes, and birds of all kinds. The public pays for this wasteful destruction with federal tax dollars.

The USDA, responsible for administering the ADC program, recently issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that would set ADC policy for the next ten years. Commenting on the deficiencies in, and inadequacies of, this draft, The HSUS has recommended that the USDA withdraw or rewrite the document.

The deadline for comments on the DEIS was August 31. But The HSUS still urges you to let the USDA know that you do not approve of the ADC's relentless and senseless slaughter of wild animals. Instead, the USDA should emphasize non-lethal methods, such as fencing and guard dogs, that have proved to be effective in reducing wildlife-caused problems without unnecessarily killing wildlife. Please write to or call: The Hon. Jo Ann Smith, Assis-



"Control" usually means "kill" at the hands of the ADC. Coyote dens may be destroyed in a wildlife refuge in order to reduce the number of predators that may compete with hunters for game.

tant Secretary of Marketing and Inspection Services, USDA, Administration Bldg., Rm. 228W, 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250, (202) 448-4256; or The Hon. Clayton Yeutter, Rm. 200A, USDA, Washington, DC 20250, (202) 447-3631.

BREAK-IN BILLS MAY HIDE ABUSES

Laboratory break-ins and threats to the lives of biomedical researchers and their families have resulted in several bills being introduced in Congress that are intended to address this issue. The HSUS has submitted testimony to congressional committees stressing our long-standing and firmly held abhorrence of violence in any form and stating that we have consistently used and encouraged the use of legal means for achieving the protection of animals. We have told these committees that The HSUS not only opposes arson, vandalism, theft, threats, and acts of violence against people, but we also believe that such acts do not advance the cause of animal protection.

Nevertheless, we have expressed deep concern about H.R. 3270, sponsored by Rep. Charles Stenholm of Texas, and other bills that could have the inadvertent effect of sealing off research and farm facilities from public scrutiny, thereby impeding the legitimate exposure and reporting of violations of animal-protection statutes. We have recommended that this legislation should contain, among other provisions, protection for whistleblowers and standing to sue on behalf of animals.

H.R. 3270 is being considered by the House Agriculture

Committee. A similar bill, S. 727, introduced by Sen. Howell Heflin of Alabama, was passed by the Senate last year.

The HSUS will continue to work with members of Congress in an attempt to ensure that any legislation that is passed contains language protecting persons who report violations of animal-protection laws in addition to protecting laboratories and researchers from violence.

TUNA LABELS TO CARRY WARNINGS?

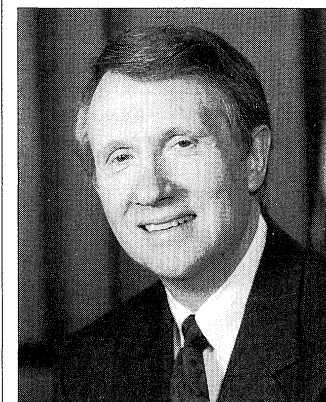
The April announcement by H.J. Heinz that its affiliate, StarKist Seafood Company, would no longer purchase or sell tuna caught via methods known to kill dolphins and would label its canned tuna "Dolphin Safe" gave added momentum to proposed tuna labeling legislation backed by The HSUS. These bills (H.R. 2926, sponsored by Rep. Barbara Boxer of California, and S. 2044, sponsored by Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware) now have 170 cosponsors in the House and 26 cosponsors in the Senate and would ensure that consumers can make an educated choice at the supermarket. They would require that the label of any tuna product containing tuna caught while swimming with dolphins or caught in ocean driftnets display the statement: "The tuna in this product was caught with methods that kill dolphins." Other tuna products may be labeled "Dolphin Safe."

After being approved by the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, H.R. 2926 is now being considered by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where a hearing was held in July. A hearing on S. 2044 was also held in the Senate Commerce

Committee. The HSUS is a member of the Dolphin Coalition, a group of thirty-seven organizations that testified in

support of S. 2044.

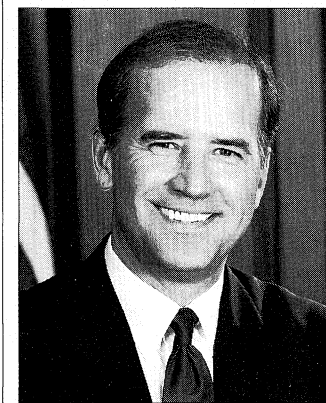
The HSUS is pushing to get this legislation through Congress before adjournment.



Sen. Harry Reid



Rep. Toby Roth



Sen. Joseph Biden



Rep. Barbara Boxer

THANK YOU

The HSUS extends its appreciation to the following members of Congress who have recently taken the lead in promoting legislation on behalf of animals:

- Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, for offering an amendment to the 1990 Farm Bill that would have precluded federal agencies from accepting the results of the Lethal-Dose 50 Test.
- Rep. Toby Roth of Wisconsin, for offering an amend-

ment to the 1990 Farm Bill that would have authorized the USDA to take injunctive action against the operations of those who are suspected of violating provisions of the Animal Welfare Act.

- Rep. Barbara Boxer of California and Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, for continuing to lead the effort for passage of tuna-labeling legislation.
- Rep. Charles Bennett of Florida, for offering a veal-calf protection amendment to the 1990 Farm Bill.

FARM BILL A DISAPPOINTMENT

A farm bill is enacted every five years to establish agricultural policy and set forth the responsibilities of the USDA. The Senate and the House of Representatives approved separate versions of the 1990 Farm Bill on July 27 and August 1 respectively. Now senators and representatives will meet in a joint conference to negotiate a single bill to be sent to the president.

During the development of the 1990 Farm Bill, The HSUS lobbied for a number of animal-protection initiatives, including:

- a low-input, sustainable agriculture program that addresses an economically and ecologically sound reduced use of chemicals or pharmaceuticals in animal as well as crop production;
- the creation of national organic-food production standards; and
- a reduction in regulatory loopholes that permit stolen pets to end up in biomedical research facilities.

The HSUS was a leader, in

cooperation with other animal-protection and environmental organizations, in an effort to amend the Farm Bill to include veal-calf protection, a ban on the government requirement for use of the Lethal-Dose 50 (LD-50) Test on animals, and USDA authority to seek temporary restraining orders and injunctions against violators of the AWA. Although these efforts were not successful this year, this was the first time these issues have been considered before the full House of Representatives or Senate.

The senate version of the Farm Bill (S. 2830) authorizes substantial new funding for the Low-Input Sustainable Agriculture (LISA) program, which emphasizes the exploration of alternative livestock-production systems. The bill also includes a detailed organic-certification program that would set forth basic production standards for organically raised food, including livestock and poultry.

Language designed to address the pet-theft problem is also included in S. 2830. It would require that identifying paperwork accompany each animal obtained by dealers and



To combat pet theft, the senate Farm Bill requires that pets bought and sold by dealers must have identifying paperwork.

would establish stricter fines and penalties for illegal transactions.

Unfortunately, prior to final passage of the senate bill, an amendment proposed by Sens. Howell Heflin and Charles Grassley was adopted to remove important language on the promotion of "animal well-being" from the LISA program. Also, the Senate tabled Sen. Harry Reid's amendment that would ban the LD-50 toxicity-testing procedure.

The House adopted a farm bill (H.R. 3950) that also includes authorization for research and education in sustainable agriculture practices. On the floor, three other animal-protection amendments were considered. Rep. Peter DeFazio's amendment was passed, establishing national standards for foods labeled as organic. The amendment is less extensive than the corresponding provision in the senate bill. Rep. Charles Bennett's amendment to provide for the humane production of veal calves was defeated on an unrecorded "voice vote." And, under a procedural ruling, consideration

was prevented of Rep. Toby Roth's amendment, which would have given the secretary of agriculture much needed authority to seek temporary restraining orders and injunctions against violators of the AWA.

The final version of the Farm Bill will also include provisions benefiting wildlife by protecting wetlands, reducing water contamination, and promoting tree planting. Differences in the house and senate versions will be resolved before Congress adjourns this fall.

ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL TESTING

Dr. Martin Stephens, HSUS director of laboratory animals, participated in a congressional briefing on August 1 on the use of animals in product and cosmetic testing.

This briefing, the third in the 1990 series sponsored by the Congressional Friends of Animals caucus, was conducted by the caucus's cochair, Rep. Tom Lantos.

Opening remarks were made by Mrs. Annette Lantos and Sen. Harry Reid, sponsor of

the proposed Consumer Products Safe Testing Act (S. 891), which would prohibit use of data from LD-50 tests by federal government agencies, require such agencies to review periodically animal testing requirements, and mandate the use of nonanimal tests wherever possible. Sen. Reid cited previous HSUS testimony as he introduced his amendment. Despite receiving considerable support from senior senators, the amendment is not included in the current version of the Farm Bill.

ESA IS ITSELF ENDANGERED

The U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) was passed in 1973 to preserve and restore this nation's vanishing wildlife. Despite its enactment, both the number of endangered species and the loss of wildlife habitat continue to grow. The Act itself is threatened by an administration that appears ready to accept wildlife extinction as a political necessity. Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan's suggested weakening of the ESA has set a most ominous tone. "Do we really have to save every subspecies," Secretary Lujan remarked last May. "Nobody's told me the difference between a red squirrel, a black one, or a brown one."

Secretary Lujan was referring to the Mt. Graham red squirrel, whose existence hinges on strict protection of its unique "sky island" habitat in Arizona. Under Secretary Lujan, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved the construction of telescopes on Mt. Graham despite information showing

that they would clearly jeopardize the squirrel, which has already lost much of its habitat because of logging, road building, and campsite construction. The USFWS, the Forest Service, and the Justice Department have all sought to circumvent the ESA by arguing that a rider to the Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 exempted the telescope project. But that was clearly not the intent of Congress in passing the measure. In response to congressional oversight hearings, including critical testimony by the Government Accounting Office, a team of USFWS biologists recently recommended a new study of the project's effect on the Mt. Graham red squirrel population.

A second head-on assault by the Bush administration on a species protected by the ESA involves the northern spotted owl. The administration has attempted to argue "owls versus jobs" in the Pacific Northwest when the issue is really one of bad forest planning, with owls, jobs, and ancient forest all at risk. The administration has cast aside sound biology, in this case developed by a blue-ribbon team of leading scientists, which recommended protecting enough old growth forest to preserve the spotted owl. Instead, the administration has called for a task force to propose changes in the ESA as an apparent attempt to place economic interests well above those of species survival.

Unless the Bush administration changes its current tone and the president becomes a real "environmental president," the future of endangered species looks grim. Citizens should insist that the administration vigorously support and

enforce the ESA. It is our last hope for 565 species of wildlife that are currently listed as "endangered" or "threatened" under the Act, as well as for thousands of "candidate" species that still await listing.

The incessant attacks on the ESA have been partially offset by some good news in the form of a favorable judicial ruling. On August 10, the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the ESA applies to species overseas if they are threatened by projects funded or carried out by U.S. government agencies. The lawsuit was brought by The HSUS, Defenders of Wildlife, and Friends of Animals.



Wildlife refuges, originally intended to be "involute sanctuaries," do not offer any safety to white-tailed deer during hunting season.

As a result of the ruling, federal agencies that are funding or carrying out activities such as construction projects must consult with the USFWS if any project may adversely affect endangered species abroad. Where the survival of a species or population would be put in jeopardy, the project may not go forward as planned. Less harmful alternatives would be required.

REFUGE REFORM GAINS SPEED

As a result of a large, effective public-education campaign, The HSUS continues to add members of the House of Representatives to the list of cosponsors of H.R. 1693, the Refuge Wildlife Protection Act. Sponsored by Rep. Bill Green of New York, the bill now has 67 cosponsors, 18 of whom have signed on since March.

Fighting to restore the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) to its original purpose, H.R. 1693 would end recreational hunting and commercial trapping on refuges, thereby returning them to "in-

violate sanctuaries" for wildlife as intended when the NWRS was established almost a century ago. Today more than half of the nation's 452 refuges permit a total of 557 different hunting programs; 91 refuges allow trapping. HSUS Vice President John Grandy testified in support of H.R. 1693 before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Subcommittee on Fisheries June 21. ■



The Senate's Farm Bill emphasizes alternative practices to intensive-raising methods such as those seen here.

THE HSUS, ALDF SUE USDA

On August 7, 1990, The HSUS and the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) filed suit against the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which enforces the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), to compel the agency to begin protecting birds, mice, and rats whenever these animals are used in biomedical research. Turning to the courts is the last in an escalatory series of moves to compel the USDA to extend protection offered these species by the AWA. In November of 1989, The HSUS and ALDF filed a petition asking that regulations for birds, rats, and mice be drawn up (see the Winter 1990 *HSUS News*). The USDA denied the petition on the grounds that the Secretary of Agriculture has the discretion to decide which research animals are covered and which are not.

The ALDF and The HSUS contend that the AWA itself mandates coverage of *all* warm-blooded animals used in biomedical research but that the USDA has ignored the wishes of Congress for the past twenty years by failing to promulgate humane standards for birds, mice, and rats—which *are* warm-blooded animals. The USDA has specifically excluded birds, mice, and rats from the definition of “animal” in its regulations, thereby officially excluding them from federal protection, even though rats, mice, and birds constitute 84 percent of all animals used in research, testing, and experimentation in the United States.

The USDA recently let down its guard and admitted that it lacks authority to exclude any warm-blooded research animals from the regulations. Answering

a request from the research community that gerbils be excluded from the AWA's protection, the USDA responded that it did “not have the authority to remove these animals from coverage of the regulations.” If that is the case, it is difficult to see how the agency *has* the authority to exclude mice, rats, and birds.

“It's regrettable that an agency of the federal government has to be sued to carry out the law,” commented Dr. Martin Stephens, The HSUS's director of laboratory animals, who has led a long-term effort to expand the AWA's coverage to these categories of animals.

HSUS FILES BRIEF IN SANTERIA CASE

In a case that pits animal protection against free exercise of religion, The HSUS has filed an appellate brief in support of the efforts of the city of Hialeah, Florida, to ban animal sacrifice.

In October of 1989, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida ruled that the City of Hialeah did not violate the rights of the Santeria Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye when the city council enacted ordinances prohibiting the ritual killing of animals (see the Winter 1990 *HSUS News*). These ordinances were vigorously supported by The HSUS, which had investigated animal-sacrifice practices for more than ten years. The court determined the ordinances were consistent with both state statutes and the U. S. Constitution.

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the district court ruled that the city has a compelling interest in the protection of animals from cruelty and unnecessary killing.

Thanks to the expert testi-

mony provided by HSUS staff members Marc Paulhus and Dr. Michael Fox, Judge Eugene Spellman of the District Court found the Santeria Church's method of killing the animals to be unreliable and inhumane. The animals, before being sacrificed, are often kept in conditions that produce a great deal of fear and stress. Often sacrificial animals are kept in filthy, overcrowded conditions and sometimes are not given adequate food or water. The animals perceive both pain and fear during the actual sacrificial ceremony.

The Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye then appealed to the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

In September the Office of the General Counsel prepared and filed a brief *amicus curiae* (as a “friend of the court”) with the Court of Appeals opposing the Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye's appeal of the District Court's decision.

We argued that animal protection is a compelling societal interest and an important public policy established since colonial times and currently embodied in anticruelty statutes in force in every state, in a battery of federal statutes, and in an unusual and widespread system of dual enforcement that commits the responsibility for protecting animals not only to governmental agencies but also to private humane societies and SPCAs. The HSUS argued that animals' interest in not being subjected to torment, fear, and death is more important than the satisfaction of any religious doctrine—that life is more important than dogma.

The HSUS pointed out that, just as animal sacrifice supplanted human sacrifice in Western and Mediterranean re-

ligions, so animal sacrifice, by 500 A.D., was itself replaced by an emphasis on a personal morality and symbolic sacrifice.

The HSUS argued that the clash of values that this case presents is less over religious concepts than over how animals should be treated and what uses of animals are justifiable. The brief concluded that Santeria's fundamental attitudes toward animal life and uses of animals are mired in an historic moment inappropriate to this society, whose legal and moral culture has made persistent, measured strides toward protecting animals from uses and exploitations unrelated to tangible human welfare.

The Santeria church in its brief argued that the Hialeah ordinances are unconstitutional because they were enacted for no neutral, secular purpose but rather specifically target and suppress religious practices. The brief also denied any compelling governmental interest in protecting animals from ritual sacrifice, especially in view of governmental tolerance of suffering inflicted upon animals in hunting, trapping, vermin extermination, and biomedical research.

The judges of the eleventh circuit in their deliberations must weigh the interests of protecting animals from torment and death, served by the ordinances, against the burden upon the Santeria religion imposed by the ban on ritual sacrifice.

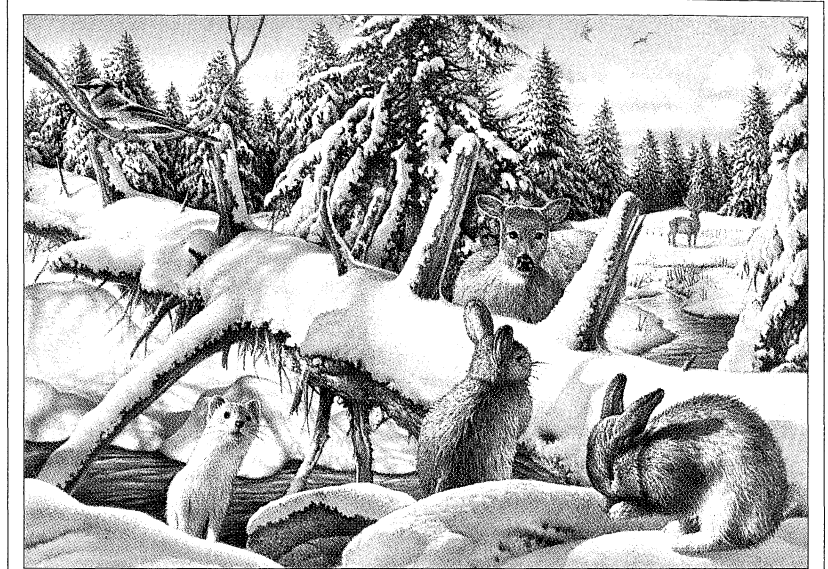
The eleventh circuit's decision is not expected until next year; a further appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States is not unlikely. ■

The Law Notes are written by HSUS General Counsel Roger Kindler and Senior Counsel Murdaugh Stuart Madden.

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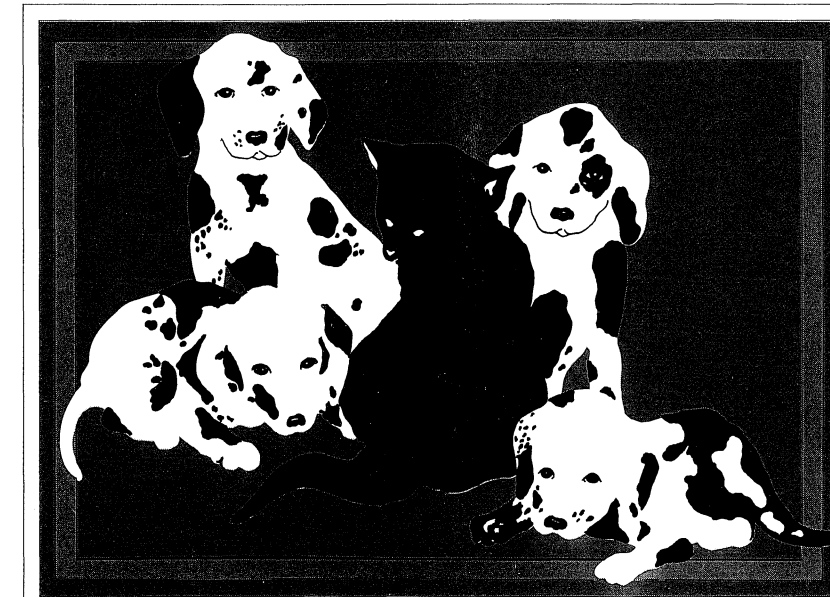
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Robert Hynes (C90A)

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Ken Malecke (C90B)



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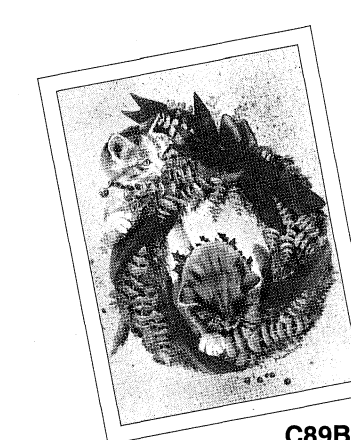
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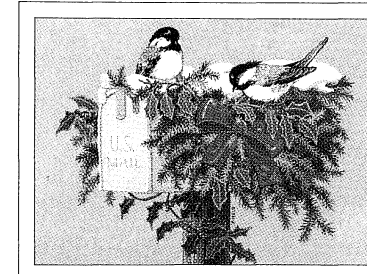
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C89B



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carry the greeting, *Peace on Earth/
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C89A

“But, Mom, I didn’t have time to feed Sadie.”

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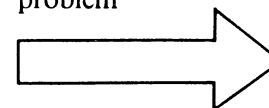


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